United Nations A/67/936

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 July 2013

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 116
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly

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I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 66/294, the General Assembly decided to establish, at its sixty-seventh session, an ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, open to all Member States:

(a) To identify further ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, inter alia, by building on progress achieved in past sessions as well as on previous resolutions, including evaluating the status of their implementation;

(b) To submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

2. In that resolution, the General Assembly also decided that the Ad Hoc Working Group should continue its review of the inventory of Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group submitted at the sixty-third session of the Assembly,[1] and, as a result, issue an updated version of the inventory to be attached to its report to be submitted at the Assembly's sixty-seventh session. The present report and the recommendations contained herein are submitted pursuant to the provisions of that resolution.

3. During the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the President of the Assembly appointed Ambassador Mootaz Ahmadein Khalil, the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, as Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

4. Before the formal beginning of its work, the Chair of the Working Group conducted informal meetings with representatives of various Member States and of a variety of political groups. During those meetings, the Chair benefited extensively from the insights and the ideas of Member States on both the substance and the technical and procedural aspects of the revitalization process.

II. Proceedings

5. The Working Group held six meetings, on 2 April, 29 April, 7 May, 10 May, 10 June and 25 July 2013.

6. The programme of work was organized in two practical stages, as follows: general discussion and exchange of views; and thematic meetings. The themes identified by the Chair for consideration in the four thematic meetings comprised:

(a) The role and authority of the General Assembly and its relationship with other principal organs of the United Nations and other groups outside the United Nations;

(b) The working methods of the Assembly;

(c) The role and responsibility of the Assembly in the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads of the United Nations system;

[1] A/63/959.

(d) The functions of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, including strengthening its institutional memory, as well as its relationship with the Secretariat.

A. General discussion

7. The first meeting of the Working Group was convened by its Chair on Tuesday, 2 April 2013, with the participation of the President of the General Assembly. Following opening remarks by the President and the Chair, 15 delegations participated in the debate, a number of them on behalf of political groups.

8. In his opening remarks, the President of the General Assembly indicated that he had asked the Permanent Representative of Egypt to act as the Chair of the Working Group and to help him in the critical endeavour of revitalizing the work of the General Assembly. Among major challenges facing the Assembly, he cited the ongoing effort to define the post-2015 development agenda as one of the most critical tasks, arguing that the international community had rarely done anything quite so difficult. He focused on the fact that, in June 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, world leaders mandated the Assembly to assume primary responsibility for conceptualizing a universal transition to sustainability. Emphasizing that the task was a strategic issue of the first order, the Chair urged Member States to define and adopt the sustainable development goals, agree on options for financing them, and conceive a workable plan for monitoring their implementation. Moving to the practice of thematic debates, he emphasized that the debates presented Member States with a unique opportunity to exchange views, noting that there should be no taboo subjects in the Assembly, especially in the context of thematic debates. Touching upon the budget of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, the President expressed his view that the current apportionment was manifestly inadequate, adding that, the post of President, being perhaps the most important multilateral post for which most small and medium-sized countries had the opportunity to run, no Member State should be constrained by the possible financial implications of victory. He appealed to the Working Group to make a strong recommendation to level the fiscal playing field by calling for a larger allocation of funds for the Office of the President from the regular United Nations budget. In conclusion, he stressed that the process of revitalization could help lay the foundation for a grand reorganization of human affairs and ensure that the Assembly became the key source of legitimacy for the international community, eventually becoming a true, universal parliament of nations.

9. At the outset of the work of the Working Group, the Chair assumed the members of his commitment to perform his task in an open, transparent and pragmatic manner, benefiting from the membership's views and ideas, in order to reach a fruitful outcome of this process. He encouraged delegations to review the updated inventory chart, which should be used not only as an inventory but rather as an indicator of the level of achievement that clearly identified what has been fully or partially implemented, or not implemented at all. In line with that approach, the Chair proposed to split the chart into two sections, separating provisions that required follow-up from those that had been implemented or were being implemented on an ongoing basis. Sharing specific ideas and suggestions on the various clusters in order to kick-start the discussions of the Working Group, the

Chair: encouraged the Group to identify additional areas of potential cooperation and coordination between the principal organs; proposed the designation of an annual high-level segment of the General Assembly each spring that would help alleviate the burden on the programme of work at the beginning of the Assembly; and asked how the Assembly's working methods could be made more efficient while reducing costs and achieving savings in resources. The Chair also wondered how coordination could be increased between the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and how the General Committee could be rendered a more effective mechanism in assisting the President in coordinating the activities of the Assembly. In addition, he urged those present to clarify the issue of rotation among various regional groups for the position of Secretary-General. In conclusion, the Chair suggested that the Working Group could lead by example in issuing a concise resolution on revitalization that builds on previous resolutions while avoiding repetition and redundancy.

10. Statements of delegations in the subsequent exchange of views focused on the four thematic clusters: the role and authority of the General Assembly; its working methods; the selection of the Secretary-General; and strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly. Many speakers once again stressed the importance of implementing the existing resolutions already adopted on the revitalization of the Assembly and welcomed the circulation by the Chair of the updated inventory chart, which had been revised pursuant to resolution 66/294. One delegation took the opportunity to underscore that no other weakness of the Assembly undermines its relevance or effectiveness more than the failure to implement its resolutions. Another welcomed the updated inventory chart and hoped that it would lead to increased implementation.

11. Regarding the role and authority of the General Assembly, one group denounced what it perceived as continued encroachment by the Security Council on issues which clearly fell under the powers and prerogatives of the General Assembly, including in areas of norm-setting, legislation, administrative and budgetary matters, and establishing definitions. One member of the group was specifically concerned that the Security Council's gradual but constant encroachment on the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council was most acute in the area of norm-setting and that it was most essential to counter and correct its activities in that regard first and foremost. The same group also cited the work of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, which it thought could contribute greatly to the process of revitalization, in particular with respect to the functional relationship of the principal organs. Another member of the group issued a call to reinvigorate the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the Committee of 34, insisting that the Assembly already had a vital role in peace and security, and that it needed to be more assertive in assuming it. The group emphasized moreover that the objective of revitalization should continue to be the strengthening of the Assembly's role and authority, bearing in mind that the improvement of its procedural and working methods was only a step in that direction. It therefore once again reaffirmed the role and authority of the Assembly, including in questions related to international peace and security, emphasizing its intergovernmental, inclusive and democratic character. In this regard, the group also drew attention to the necessity of consulting with Member States on the initiatives and activities undertaken within the Organization.

12. A different group, for its part, reiterated its commitment to efforts aimed at strengthening the role and authority of the General Assembly in line with the Charter and the relevant resolutions, and based on realistic assessment and effective use of available funding. One delegation, while also supporting such realistic initiatives, nonetheless cautioned that they must be based on respect for the balance of functions of the principal organs. Another group emphasized the co-equal status of the Assembly and the Security Council. A subsequent speaker suggested that the work of the Assembly and the Council should be complementary, rather than competitive, while another underlined that the Assembly could play an effective role in situations where the Council had failed to act.

13. Commenting on the practice of holding thematic debates, one group confirmed that it would very much welcome the establishment, by the President of the General Assembly, of consultations with Member States on the possibilities for achieving, where appropriate, results-oriented outcomes of such debates, and suggested that, at the beginning of every session, the President might recommend a programme for thematic debates to the General Assembly. On a related issue, one group was supportive of further improvement of information sharing with regard to briefings by the President on his recent activities, including official travels, which continued to be an appreciated practice that served as a valuable source of information and transparency for the wider membership.

14. On the second cluster, working methods, several delegations emphasized the importance of the General Assembly becoming more efficient and effective. In this regard, one group specifically looked forward to the briefings by the Chairs of the Main Committees. A number of delegations expressed their wish for a more streamlined agenda, which they argued would allow the Assembly to focus its work on matters of common concern to the international community. This, they suggested, could be done by clustering, biennializing and triennializing items. In this context, one group specifically noted the importance of leadership by the President, as well as the Chairs and bureaux of Main Committees. One delegation also spoke in favour of a more streamlined and focused agenda, which, it underlined, should result in the highlighting of questions related to development.

15. As to the scheduling of high-level meetings, it was suggested by one group that in order to assure true impact of those endeavours, their number and distribution throughout the year should be carefully considered. The same group suggested that too high a number of high-level events could undermine their significance and lead to overburdening of the General Assembly's programme of work. It therefore reiterated the invitation to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, in particular in his capacity as Chair of the General Committee, and the Chairs of the Main Committees, in consultation with Member States, to enhance the coordination of the scheduling of high-level meetings, especially during the holding of the general debate. A subsequent speaker, pointing to the tight schedule of bilateral meetings kept by Heads of State and Government and Ministers for Foreign Affairs, also stressed the need to lighten the high-level week in September; high-level meetings, he argued, should be spread evenly over the session.

16. In other references related to working methods, there emerged a widespread desire to revisit and reconsider the current rotation schedule for the Chairs and bureaux of the Main Committees, which was due to expire at the end of the sixty-

eighth session. One group stressed that it would welcome further discussions and practical proposals on this matter, a point supported by a number of other delegations as well.

17. Another group, acknowledging the very substantive historical memory of our deliberations, arguing that it should be readily accessible, as it would facilitate preparations for each and every session and contribute to a better understanding of various positions and concepts, proposed the creation of a website focused on revitalization that could follow the form and example of the Main Committee websites and contain important related official letters and notifications to the Permanent Missions, statements, reports, resolutions, etc. In the context of e-services, one group noted that the Official Document System (ODS) had been fully operational and accessible and that a range of options, including online access, knowledge management, and video training was being implemented through and by the PaperSmart team.

18. Regarding the selection of the Secretary-General, one group and a number of delegations aligned with it reaffirmed that the appointment process should be more transparent and inclusive of all Member States, thus allowing an effective and efficient participation of the General Assembly. It also stressed the need for the full implementation of the relevant provisions in resolutions 60/286, 64/301 and 66/294, including in the selection process of the next Secretary-General. One speaker suggested that the current session provided a good opportunity for considering this issue, given that the next selection process was still some time away. He also expressed the hope that the report of the Working Group for this session would contain clear encouragement of female candidates as the next Secretary-General. Another speaker stressed the need to strictly follow the provisions of the Charter.

19. With regard to the strengthening of the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, several delegations stressed that financial considerations should not pre-empt any Member State from running for the post of President of the Assembly. On a related note, one speaker made the point that an increase in the allocation of resources would avoid the President being dependent on contributions made to the Trust Fund for the Office of the President. One group highlighted the importance of ensuring the effectiveness of the Office of the President, including through increasing its budget and strengthening its institutional memory, and recalled previous mandates for the Secretary-General to submit proposals, in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, to review the existing budget allocation and to report on the funding and staffing for the Office. A subsequent speaker countered by recalling the need for the submission of such proposals to follow existing procedures (for example, the procedures of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) and suggested exploring options for providing support to the Office of the President from within the Secretariat, along the lines of the support provided to the Security Council by the Security Council Affairs Division of the Department of Political Affairs. Another speaker also supported the idea of the problem of enhanced support from the Secretariat, which he saw as essential in the light of the Office's enhanced workload, and he pointed to valuable tools, such as *The PGA Handbook* as ways to strengthen institutional memory.

20. Finally, on a procedural note, a group of delegations and an individual delegation encouraged the President of the General Assembly, in the light of the

considerable workload before the Working Group, to continue looking for a second Co-Chair, following past practice.

21. In his concluding remarks, the Chair thanked the delegations for their active participation in the initial meeting and announced, following a request for clarification from a delegation, that he would circulate a background note in advance of the Group's next meeting, regarding the proposal to convene a high-level segment of the General Assembly in the spring. He also took note that there had been no disagreement on his proposal to split the updated inventory chart into two sections, indicating that he would therefore proceed accordingly. The Chair also announced his intention to invite a representative of the Department of Public Information to brief the Working Group at one of its forthcoming meetings on ways and means to raise the visibility of the Assembly's work, and he also looked forward to the briefings by Chairs of the Main Committee on working methods. Having heard several delegations speak in favour of streamlining the agenda, the Chair invited delegations to come forward with specific proposals. With regard to the selection process for the Secretary-General, he noted the need to adhere to the Charter. He also remarked on the suggestions put forward for reactivating the work of the General Committee.

B. Thematic meetings

First thematic meeting: the role and authority of the General Assembly and its relationship with other principal organs of the United Nations and other groups outside the United Nations

22. The Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group convened its second meeting, which was also its first thematic meeting, on the afternoon of Monday, 29 April 2013, to examine issues related to the role and authority of the General Assembly and its relationship with other principal organs of the United Nations and other groups outside the United Nations. In opening the meeting, the Chair briefly presented the updated inventory chart of resolutions on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (the final version of which is contained in annex I to the present report) to delegations. He flagged its posting on the website of the President of the General Assembly, underscored the division of its two parts and the nature of each, noted that it indicated that roughly two thirds of the provisions have been implemented and one third need additional follow-up and encouraged delegations to use it.

23. Turning to the issue at hand, he spoke of the pressing need for the universal body to play its leading role in global governance and to reactivate the relevant provisions of the Charter to become more relevant and effective. Encouraging mutually reinforcing and complementary relationships between the principal organs, he highlighted two such relationships specifically. In the area of peacekeeping operations, he spoke of the complementary roles and responsibilities of the General Assembly and Security Council. Turning to the post-2015 development agenda, he spoke of the importance of cooperation between the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Looking further afield, he observed that relationships with groups outside the United Nations and with the public at large both needed to be strengthened, not least from the standpoint of increasing the visibility of the Organization and the understanding of its work. Civil society, non-governmental

organizations and the private sector would all be key to success in this regard. Following his remarks, 14 delegations took the floor, two on behalf of groups.

24. Taking up one of the Chair's main points, one group agreed on the importance of close cooperation and coordination among all principal organs, commenting that it was essential for the Organization to work in unison. For that reason, the group was deeply concerned that encroachment was widespread, focusing extensively on the balance between the General Assembly and the Security Council on peace and security issues. Speaking of the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly specifically, the group urged the Council to make it more comprehensive and analytical, and called for the institution of the informal meetings held during its preparation by the President of the Security Council with all Member States. Referring to the updated inventory chart, the group noted that no special subject-oriented reports had been formally submitted to the Assembly and commented that it was to be regretted.

25. One speaker urged the Genera Assembly to take the lead in setting the global agenda and stated that the Security Council should stop its efforts to redefine the Assembly's competence. Another condemned the usurpation of the Assembly's mandate by others, directly warning against minimizing its importance or achievements. Yet another speaker offered two suggestions: that the Assembly needed to increase its promptness in taking decisions on issues of peace and security and that it needed to concentrate on crucial issues. A subsequent speaker, suggesting that the role and authority of the Assembly would best be enhanced through increased efficiency and transparency, supported an open and transparent relationship between the Assembly and the Security Council, but was concerned by efforts to change this co-equal relationship, particularly through the Assembly's involvement in the Council's working methods. On the latter point, a subsequent speaker was vehemently against reallocating to the Assembly the prerogatives of any of the other organs, including the Council. Regarding peace and security issues, he insisted on the mandatory nature of the provisions of the Charter and, as regarded the Council's annual report, he argued that the Council was doing what could be done to improve it, and that this effort at greater transparency needed to be noticed. On the second of these points, a subsequent speaker stated that this was the Council's duty, citing Articles 15 and 24 of the Charter, and suggesting that the Council's compliance was merely formal, rather than substantive. Despite progress, a more analytical report was still required. Another delegation concurred, also referring to Article 24 and agreeing that the report needed to be more analytical, and further insisting that it needed to account for situations in which the Council had failed to act. Another delegation acknowledged that the Assembly's role in regard to the promotion of peace, security and development had lagged behind improvements in organizational structures, management practices and administrative procedures and urged that steps be taken to resolve the perceived tension between the Council and the Assembly. The starting point for the Assembly, according to the delegation, was the full use of the enormous scope it had been given under the Charter. In addition, weak action in the Assembly would lead to the involuntary outsourcing of its responsibilities. The delegation noted that the Assembly had addressed issues of peace and security and had opposed aggression and the use of force whenever, as had happened often in the cold war, the Council was paralysed by partisan votes.

26. Regarding collaboration and relationships with other groups outside the United Nations, one group, recalling that the General Assembly was the primary legislative

body in the multilateral system and that this position should be respected, commented that it would follow discussions around the issue closely. A subsequent delegation renewed both its objection to the phrase and its request for its deletion, prompting the Chair to explain that the phrase had been inserted precisely in order to emphasize the nature of the Assembly as more democratic and inclusive. Another group found the interaction between the Assembly and international or regional forums and organizations to be of great importance and supported dialogue between the United Nations and the Group of Twenty in particular. It encouraged efforts aimed at increasing visibility and transparency of the Assembly's work equally strongly, arguing that outreach to other groups outside the United Nations would undoubtedly contribute to strengthening the Assembly's role and visibility. It also specifically supported the briefings of the President of the General Assembly to the membership. A subsequent delegation, equally supportive of the briefings, also urged that there be more briefings by the Chairs of the Main Committees, and that specific outreach efforts to civil society and the private sector be further enhanced.

27. One group expressed support for thematic debates, ideally upon previous consultation with Member States, and focused, where appropriate, on results-oriented outcomes. It recalled an earlier recommendation that at the beginning of each session, the General Committee, following a recommendation from the President, should recommend to the General Assembly a programme and format for interactive debates on the items on the agenda, suggesting that the Working Group might explore that idea further. It also urged a qualitative rather than quantitative approach to high-level events and the coordination of their scheduling, particularly near the time of the general debate. Another delegation praised not only the thematic debates, but also the role of the President in them. Yet another speaker urged that the thematic debates be rationalized, as they were not really interactive, nor did they yield any real results. The speaker also suggested that more attention be given to their follow-up, and to the scheduling of those slated to occur around the time of the general debate. Later, another delegation posited that the Assembly had become overburdened by the thematic debates, which had become lost in the flow. The delegation proposed that it might be more useful and productive to cluster the debates within a spring session of high-level meetings.

28. A number of other specific proposals were made in the course of the meeting. One speaker suggested that for every resolution, the Secretariat might submit, within a specific time frame, a report on the status of implementation, including information on the reasons for non-implementation or delay in implementation. A special unit could be created within the Secretariat for such follow-up and review, located within the Office of the President of the General Assembly. The same speaker suggested that the Working Group should examine the possibility of convening a high-level meeting in the near future to explore new ideas on how to bring more vigour, visibility and attention to the revitalization debate. Near the end of the meeting, a different delegation brought up another matter that it felt weighed upon the role, authority and transparency of the Assembly: the election of the Chairs of the Main Committee. The cycle of rotation mandated by the Assembly in its resolution 48/264 was coming to an end, and there was a need to make provisions and set out clear rules and mechanisms for transparency.

29. The Chair, in closing, took note of this point. He also noted that delegations reaffirmed the importance of enhancing the role and authority of the General Assembly as the most democratic and universal body in global governance. He

stressed that the relationship between the Assembly and other principal organs of the United Nations was complementary, not competitive, and that Member States were equal in all principal organs. The Chair expressed interest in the suggestion regarding the timing of the thematic debates, and felt that organizing them so that they did not take place at the same time as the general debate could make them more interactive and effective. An additional week of high-level meetings in March, April or May could alleviate pressure during the high-level segment in September.

30. The Chair was also gratified by the number of speakers who commended the updated inventory chart, some of whom had made use of it to support arguments they had made in the course of the meeting. It was intended to be user-friendly, and the Chair hoped that it would help delegations to improve the implementation rate. He had also been heartened by the commitment of delegations to address shortcomings, and he noted the support expressed for partnerships with civil society.

Second thematic meeting: the working methods of the General Assembly

31. The third meeting of the Working Group, which was also its second thematic meeting, on 7 May 2013, focused on the working methods of the General Assembly. (The meeting continued on 10 May in order to exhaust its list of speakers.) Pursuant to paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 66/294, the meeting also heard briefings by the Chairs of the First, Fourth, Second, Third and Fifth Committees, as well as the Vice-Chair of the Sixth Committee, on discussions held by them on their working methods during the sixty-seventh session. At the same meeting, the Chair also circulated a non-paper on enhancing the coordination of the scheduling of high-level meetings at the United Nations (see annex II) and a background note on the rotation pattern for the election of the Chairs of the six Main Committees (see annex III).

32. In his opening remarks, the Chair welcomed the presence of the Chairs of the Main Committees and briefly recalled a number of proposals that had been put forward by Member States in the course of the Working Group's deliberations thus far, including the proposal to create a dedicated website to focus on the institutional memory of the General Assembly revitalization process and the proposal to consider replacement of the expiring rotation pattern for the election of the Chairs of the Main Committees. The Chair encouraged delegations to lead by example through presenting to the Working Group or to the General Committee items co-sponsored by them for possible streamlining. The Chair also reiterated his call for the Working Group to lead by example in agreeing on a concise resolution that would avoid duplication by building on existing mandates and by being action-oriented. Referring to the distributed documents, he briefly introduced his non-paper and background paper and also proposed further restructuring of the updated inventory chart to align its currently three-fold structure with that of the Working Group's four thematic clusters according to previous resolutions on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

Briefings by the Chairs of the Main Committees

33. The Chair of the First Committee reported that the work of the Committee at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly had benefited from the rationalization and streamlining measures implemented over the past 20 years, including: the grouping or merging of related agenda items; biennial and triennial

consideration of some items; and the ordering of the items and sub-items before the Committee under seven broad topics or clusters. It had also benefited from the establishment of a deadline for the submission of draft resolutions and decisions; the introduction of thematic debates for a more focused discussion of disarmament issues; the streamlining of the stages of the Committee's work; improved coordination of its meetings with those of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee); and the establishment of a dynamic web portal. Collectively, the various measures taken to rationalize the working methods of the Committee had brought about greater organizational clarity, better focus in its deliberations and a more efficient use of its resources. The Chair also observed that it was incumbent on Member States to continue to ensure that draft resolutions were concise, focused and action-oriented. In addition, he recalled that the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs had pointed out that the response rate to General Assembly resolutions requesting the Secretariat to collect data and information from Member States was very low. The Chair also underlined the importance of the early election of the Chairs of the Main Committees and emphasized that the three-month delay in electing the Chair and the bureau for the sixty-seventh session had set back the work of the Committee. With respect to modern technologies, First Committee delegates were increasingly relying on QuickFirst as their main source of information. Gradually, greater use was being made of electronic copies of documents rather than hard copies. On the other hand, when the Committee considered a proposal for PaperSmart operations forwarded by the Chair, during the sixty-sixth session of the Assembly, no consensus was reached owing to concerns raised by some delegations. Finally, at the sixty-seventh session, after storm Sandy had severely disrupted the thematic debate segment, the Committee had adopted the Chair's proposal that all speakers take the floor for just one minute and then forward their prepared statements to be posted on the First Committee portal, QuickFirst. That approach, known as the "Sandy formula", which was adopted without setting a precedent, enabled the Committee to make up the three days lost to the storm and to conclude its work on 7 November 2012, as originally scheduled.

34. The Chair of the Fourth Committee highlighted the Committee's wide scope of work, which was due in part to the historic merging, in 1993, of two pre-existing committees, the Special Political Committee and the Fourth Committee (Trusteeship Committee).[2] In contrast to other Main Committees, the Fourth Committee took action on draft resolutions submitted under each item or cluster of items during the course of the session after the conclusion of the general debate on those items. A particular practice of the Committee was the hearing of petitioners, who may speak on behalf of the 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories under its consideration. In order to enhance the interactive nature of the Committee's meetings, interactive dialogues with high-level representatives of the Secretariat were held. The Chair noted that participation in these interactive segments had varied widely at the Assembly's sixty-seventh session, and stressed that more active participation in such interactive segments could contribute to a more lively debate. At its sixty-seventh session, the Fourth Committee bureau and the Committee as a whole had considered its methods of work, but had not decided to biennialize or triennialize any of the other items on the Committee's agenda. In this regard, the Chair recalled that the Committee considered reports of six subsidiary bodies, which themselves met annually. Taking

[2] See resolution 47/233.

into account the particular nature of the remaining items, the Chair did not see any possibility of the further clustering of items at this stage. The Chair also underscored his concerted effort to start meetings on time and to keep them within the official meeting times, thus making the most efficient use of the resources allocated to the Committee. Time limits and deadlines for the inscription on speakers' lists were strictly observed. Through such measures, it had been possible to reduce the number of scheduled meetings of the Committee. The addition of a new item, "Comprehensive review of special political missions", at the sixty-eighth session, would, however, necessitate the addition of two meetings to the programme of the Fourth Committee for that session. The Chair also noted that the webcasts of the meetings of the Main Committees during the sixty-seventh session, in accordance with the decision of the General Assembly, had contributed to transparency. Documents (both formal and informal) were regularly posted on the Committee's password-protected website. The Secretariat also maintained a mailing list and took a proactive approach by sending regular e-mails to delegations regarding the Committee's work. In conclusion, the Chair noted that the delay in the election of the Chairs and other officers of the Main Committees of the sixty-seventh session had proven detrimental to the organization of work, and that the early election of the bureaux of the Main Committees, as foreseen by the Assembly, would greatly facilitate the preparation for each session, including interaction with the Committee secretariat, and allow for a better handover from the outgoing to the incoming bureau.

35. The Chair of the Second Committee noted that over the last few years the Committee had undertaken significant steps towards improving its working methods, culminating in the adoption of General Assembly decision 65/530 on that subject. In implementing the suggestions made by Member States at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the bureau decided to hold an informal meeting, on 4 October 2012, at the beginning of the sixty-seventh session, to discuss the Committee's working methods. An informal paper resulting from that meeting was expected to be circulated to the members of the Second Committee on QuickPlace, highlighting, inter alia, the following elements: observance of deadlines for the submission of draft resolutions; proper drafting of resolutions in accordance with the recommendations contained in the pertinent Assembly resolutions; and the possible merger of recurrent resolutions of the same cluster that presented similar or homogeneous content, with the ultimate objective, in some cases, of potentially having omnibus resolutions that would address the concerned agenda items in a comprehensive and coherent manner. Furthermore, agenda items of single clusters could be reorganized, especially after a major United Nations conference. In addition, the use of QuickPlace could be operationalized throughout the year, rather than being restricted to the main part of the Assembly session. The Chair of the Second Committee noted, in addition, that the Committee had continued its unique tradition of holding special events on key issues and emerging challenges in development, designed to inform the work of the Committee and to bring it into contact with new and cutting-edge thinking from leading figures in academia and development practitioners. The Committee had also continued the practice, begun at the sixty-sixth session, of holding joint events of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council, which underscored the importance of and need for systemwide coherence. Furthermore, the Second and Third Committees had held a joint informal meeting on "Communication for development: using information and communications technology and broadband to accelerate social and economic

development", the first meeting of its kind. The Chair noted that the issue of the organization of the list of speakers remained to be resolved in the Second Committee, with the Committee deciding the inscription of the representative of the European Union on a case-by-case basis for each agenda item. As this continued to be a delicate matter, with the potential of impeding the smooth functioning of the conduct of work, for all of the Main Committees, a common understanding and agreement on how best to address the matter could be beneficial. On a general note, this was the first session at which the Secretariat had begun posting the list of speakers for each item on QuickPlace a day before consideration, and this had been well received by Member States. The unfortunate delay in the election of the Chair and bureau for the sixty-seventh session had had a negative impact, however, affecting, inter alia, the selection by the bureau of facilitators (involving approximately 35 delegates), the decision-making process in relation to the number and focus of the special events and the ability of the Secretariat to secure high-level, qualified panellists for these events on short notice. At the Committee's informal meeting on improving its working methods, delegations emphasized that the discussion on merging and biennialization and triennialization of resolutions and on clustering/reorganization of agenda items should begin informally well before the start of the session, and that such discussions should ideally take place in May and June, within the bureau-elect, and, if necessary, with major groups. Accordingly, the bureau-elect needed to be in place well before the start of the session and there also needed to be a seamless link between the incoming and outgoing bureaux. In this regard, the Working Group might consider the benefit of having the Main Committees elect their Chairs and bureaux for each forthcoming session at the last meeting of the current session of the Committee, before the closure of the main part of the General Assembly. The bureau-elect thus would be in place at least 10 months ahead of the start of the session.

36. The Chair of the Third Committee made his presentation to the Working Group on the basis of a conference room paper (A/C.3/67/CRP.1) containing a report on the methods of work of the Third Committee. The Chair focused, in particular, on the elections of the Chair and bureau, as well as on the agenda and the use of QuickPlace, among other issues. He reaffirmed the Committee's practice of having the Chair elected on the basis of geographical distribution and on its practice of having the Rapporteur elected on the same basis. The Third Committee also elected its bureau three months in advance so that it might discuss the organization and division of work and consider the programme of work immediately thereafter. Given this situation, the incoming bureau should continue to meet with the outgoing bureau to consult and review issues relating to the efficient functioning of the Committee's work. Regarding the agenda, it had undergone several changes since the adoption of General Assembly resolutions 45/175 and 50/227, with the most recent additional item being that of the "Report of the Human Rights Council". Whereas all items allocated to it were considered on an annual basis, the submission of some reports and draft resolutions has been biennialized. Several items have been clustered, while others are now considered in joint debate. The Committee would continue to consider the further biennialization, triennialization and clustering of items, in consultation with Member States, while taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Working Group. Since the Committee held individual general discussions on each item, further rationalization through the use of clustering or joint consideration would be desirable as it would free up time for delegations to negotiate the text of draft resolutions. With regard to QuickPlace, the

Chair noted that its increased use had greatly facilitated the smooth and timely conclusion of work, and he suggested that the website of the Committee should continue to be improved on a regular basis. When reports were not available in all official languages within the six-week rule, every effort should be made to make them available in their unedited advance version, in English only, on the website of the substantive Department. On an organizational note, however, the bureau and delegations had expressed concern at the lack of availability of rooms and Secretariat support during the peak times of informal consultations on draft resolutions. It was therefore advisable to review the support given to the secretariat of the Third Committee so that it might adequately reflect requirements, in terms of office space and equipment, whether in the North Lawn Building or elsewhere, following the completion of the capital master plan. Finally, the Committee should also consider closer cooperation and collaboration with the other Main Committees in order to identify and address issues that were also under their consideration, while respecting divisions of responsibility. In conclusion, the Chair stressed that the Committee should continue to examine ways to revitalize its work and to keep the Working Group informed of any decisions in this regard.

37. The Chair of the Fifth Committee, who underlined the Committee's traditionally heavy workload, singled out two issues, that had had a particularly important impact on the work of the Committee, namely the availability of documentation and the time management of meetings. He underscored that the timely availability of documents before the Committee was of utmost importance, and noted the efforts that had already been undertaken, including the establishment of a documentation focal point in the Department of Management, who worked in very close contact with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. Finding ways to further enhance the timely issuance of documentation could have a direct impact on the Committee's programme of work. Secondly, with regard to the time management of the meetings themselves, during the sixty-seventh session the Committee had tried to limit night and weekend meetings to the extent possible, while endeavouring to start meetings strictly on time. There was a tendency in the Committee to avoid parallel meetings in order to ensure the full transparency and inclusiveness of all consultations. Another measure that could help reduce the length of meetings was to suggest time limits for briefings from the Secretariat. On other issues, the question of the speaking order had not yet been fully resolved, and the Chair suggested that this was a task for consideration by the regional groups. He also noted the important role social media could play in increasing the visibility of the work of the Committee. In conclusion, the Chair of the Fifth Committee emphasized the importance of the early elections of the Chairs of the Main Committees and their bureaux, which, he believed, would enhance the predictability and organization for the forthcoming session.

38. The Vice-Chair of the Sixth Committee focused his remarks on two issues, namely on the planning of work and on the PaperSmart mode of servicing meetings in the Committee. With regard to the former, he reiterated the concern of the overlapping scheduling of meetings in the Committee and the plenary on items of a related nature, and he suggested that further steps could be taken to address this duplication, which presented a problem of participation for delegates to the Sixth Committee. Second, he noted that the PaperSmart pilot had been adopted by the Committee at its sixty-seventh session and underlined that it had been well received

by delegations overall, not only for reasons of cost-effectiveness but also because of the efficient access to information that it provided.

Interactive segment

39. Following the briefings by the Chairs of the Main Committees, the Chair opened the floor for an interactive segment of comments and questions from delegations. All speakers demonstrated a strong interest in the views of the Chairs of the Main Committees on further streamlining their agendas and periodizing their resolutions. One group underlined the need to address the question of the expiring rotation pattern for the election of the Chairs of the Main Committees and underscored the importance of electing their bureaux at least three months in advance in order to allow for adequate preparation and the exchange of lessons learned from one session to the next. A number of questions, mainly addressed to the Chair of the First Committee, touched on the preferability of adopting resolutions by vote or by consensus and on whether the number of annual resolutions could be reduced. One delegation pointed out that while progress had been made in making the work of the General Assembly more efficient, less progress had been achieved in making it more effective, especially if it was measured by the rate of implementation of its adopted resolutions.

40. In response to those questions, the Chair of the First Committee noted that attempts had been made to streamline the Committee's agenda for the past 20 years, but that this had proven difficult because of the ownership of certain draft resolutions. Speaking on the question of effectiveness, he added that the follow-up to resolutions was sometimes worrying, with a minimal response rate from Member States. From a substantive perspective, the membership in the First Committee was divided in that members attached different degrees of importance either to nuclear disarmament or non-proliferation. Striving for consensus on all the resolutions before it was therefore something difficult to imagine in practice. In the light of that situation, the Chair of the First Committee spoke out in favour of the existing practice.

41. The Chair of the Fourth Committee also noted that any attempt at avoiding the repetition of resolutions was a highly political endeavour, noting the sponsors' desire to see their initiatives being reiterated every session. That point was echoed and reinforced by the Chair of the Second Committee, who emphasized that the prerogatives of the Member States were well established. The Chair of the Third Committee argued, however, that the Secretariat could further improve the streamlining and synchronizing of the Committee's work with that being undertaken in Geneva by the Human Rights Council. The Vice-Chair of the Sixth Committee focused his response on the question of consensus versus vote, underlining that voting was more a question of the democratic rights of Member States than one of time management. In fact, the Sixth Committee operated, as the Vice-Chair pointed out, on the practice of adopting resolutions by consensus, although this could mainly be attributed to the legal nature of the Committee's focus. Regarding the suggestion of one-off resolutions, the Vice-Chair argued that this would be a big change at the United Nations, though in practice it rarely happened. He also noted the practical elements associated with repetitive resolutions, which often contained important updates or mandates.

Statements/debate

42. In general statements, 12 delegations intervened, including on behalf of groups. One group reiterated its position that, in principle, the process of revitalization of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations and its position in the wider United Nations system, including aspects such as working methods that appear to have a technical dimension, was of a political nature. Another group put forward its understanding of revitalization as meaning a more streamlined Assembly, more accountable and more effective at dealing with the issues currently on its agenda, in which enhancing the efficiency of its working methods was key. One delegation also emphasized that it considered that streamlining and prioritizing the Assembly's agenda and enhancing its efficiency should be the highest priority of the Working Group, while another concurred that, while revitalization ought to be a political process, inefficiencies nevertheless needed to be addressed where they existed.

43. Regarding streamlining the agenda, including through the biennialization and triennialization of items, one group attached the greatest importance to further consideration of this issue, including through considering the introduction of a sunset clause. The group suggested that each of the Main Committees, their Chairs and their bureaux should have an active role to play in this, recalling the earlier recommendation from the Working Group that the General Committee, meeting in open-ended consultations, should also consider the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items. It further noted that, since then, the General Committee had made no such recommendations to the General Assembly. A subsequent speaker also favoured the inclusion of a sunset clause and encouraged Member States to exercise greater discipline in tabling draft resolutions, including by discontinuing resolutions on outdated and obscure topics. Overall, the group stressed that the Assembly should focus more on issues of relevance, and it supported clear timelines for working groups to finish their work. Another delegation proposed looking critically at the extensive reporting requirements stemming from many resolutions and suggested that it might be best if they were not tabled every year. But another group, commenting on those same issues, strongly emphasized that any streamlining of the Assembly's agenda, including the introduction of sunset clauses, should be conducted with a clear consent of the co-sponsoring States and/or the States concerned with the topic of the item. One of its members specifically stressed that, while some may consider some agenda items and resolutions as being less important and that they should not be given the level of attention they currently enjoy, others might feel differently. Another member of this group emphasized that no irrelevant issues were discussed in the Assembly. Noting that the programmes of work of some Main Committees were partly organized on a biennial and triennial basis, the group underscored the intergovernmental nature of discussions of their working methods by the Main Committees. Another of its members, highlighting the importance of implementation, reiterated its suggestion that a special unit, located in the Secretariat or in the Office of the President of the General Assembly, might be tasked to submit, within a specific time frame, a status of implementation report for every resolution adopted, including an indication of non-implementation.

44. With reference to the rotation pattern in the election for the Chairs of the Main Committees, one delegation put forward a detailed proposal (see annex IV) based on the argument that a simple extension of the current pattern set out in resolution

48/264 would not be enough. This proposal envisaged, inter alia, rotation among all regional groups, including a strong role for the President of the General Assembly and the General Committee in the process of forming the bureaux of the Main Committees. Another delegation suggested that the sixth chairmanship among the six Main Committees could continue to rotate among the three numerically largest regional groups. One group pointed out the necessity of streamlining the current arrangement to make the rotation scheme more transparent and predictable. Similarly, another group stressed the necessity of preparing a fair, transparent and balanced medium-term rotational arrangement for the chairing of the six Main Committees as soon as possible and called on the President of the General Assembly to take strong leadership in this regard. Other speakers underlined the need for more predictability in the election of the Chairs of the Main Committees.

45. On the scheduling of high-level meetings, one group emphasized that high-level meetings held on the basis of mandates from the General Assembly and thematic debates gave more visibility to very important topics, among which a majority were of the utmost importance to developing countries and expressed appreciation for the active role taken by the Secretariat in providing advice to ensure optimum scheduling of these meetings. This group was open to considering proposals aimed at further enhancing the coordination of high-level meetings, including the allocation of one or two weeks dedicated expressly to them, bearing in mind the technical feasibility and the need to facilitate the full participation of Member States. Another speaker, noting that excessive numbers of high-level meetings devalued their importance and underlining the need not to overburden the period of the general debate itself, supported spreading such meetings over the course of the entire session and looked forward to discussing the Chair's non-paper. Other delegations were also open to the idea of setting aside one week during March or April for this purpose. For its part, another group reiterated the invitation to the President of the General Assembly, in particular in his capacity as Chair of the General Committee, and to the Chairs of the Main Committees, in consultation with Member States, to enhance the scheduling of high-level meetings, especially around the time of the general debate, suggesting that the Working Group could also contribute with indicative guidance in this regard. One speaker expressed caution and stressed the need for the careful consideration of the pros and cons of a separate springtime segment, which was echoed by others who remained to be convinced of the utility of introducing a separate high-level week during the spring.

46. With regard to balloting and voting in the General Assembly, one group supported the introduction of technical improvements in principle, but recalled that no option thus far presented had met the requirements of reliability, credibility, integrity and confidentiality and that, consequently, no formal decision had been taken by the Assembly. The same group underlined the fact that the development of electronic devices related to the voting and balloting systems within the framework of the capital master plan could not be invoked, in and of itself, as a reason for Member States to adopt those systems. Conversely, another group reiterated the importance it attached to improving the existing balloting system and adapting it to modern technologies. It was looking forward to updates from the Secretariat on any new technological developments that might be relevant, bearing in mind concerns expressed about security and confidentiality.

47. Finally, on the distribution of documents and the use of modern technologies, one group noted with appreciation the efforts made by the Secretariat to reduce the

distribution of paper versions of official United Nations documents to the Permanent Missions and proposed that the savings thus realized could be used to further improve the quality of the documents, taking into account requirements for availability in all official languages. This group also urged that greater use be made of the Internet so that it would become the main paperless and cost-effective channel of timely information and distribution of documents. It also reiterated, in this context, its proposal for a dedicated website on revitalization. Other delegations were also supportive of further enhancing the use of modern technology in making information available to delegations by electronic means. However, while acknowledging the importance of cost savings and reduced environmental impact, another group stressed that better e-services should not be interpreted as an alternative to the issuance of hard copies of Secretariat notifications and all other relevant documentations. These, it insisted, must be distributed in paper format, particularly all the important official communications that must be transmitted both by e-mail and by fax.

48. In his concluding remarks, the Chair thanked the Chairs of the Main Committees for their very useful briefings, underlining the importance of exchanging best practices. Summarizing the main points made in the debate, the Chair invited delegations, and the Working Group itself, to lead by example, including by proposing items co-sponsored by them for possible streamlining. Recapitulating the various statements and proposals made, and the background note circulated regarding the rotation pattern for the election of the Chairs of the Main Committees, the Chair urged delegations and regional groups to consider this issue further and also called for the timely submission of candidatures for the forthcoming elections of the officers of the Main Committees for the sixty-eighth session, to facilitate its timely organization. On the issue of balloting, the Chair indicated that he had received confirmation from the Secretariat that, since it had previously reported on this issue during the sixty-sixth session, there had been no technological developments that met the criteria of credibility, reliability and confidentiality as defined in paragraph 24 of General Assembly resolution 66/294.

Third thematic meeting: the role and responsibility of the General Assembly in the selection and the appointment of the Secretary-General, as well as in the selection of candidatures for other Executive Heads of organizations of the United Nations system

49. The Chair of the Working Group convened its fourth meeting on the afternoon of Friday, 10 May 2013. Following remarks by the remaining speakers of the second thematic meeting, on the working methods of the General Assembly, the Working Group devoted the remainder of the afternoon to its third thematic meeting, on the role and responsibility of the General Assembly in the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other Executive Heads of organizations of the United Nations system.

50. In his opening remarks, the Chair outlined the issues and history of the selection and appointment process and urged delegations to present concrete and practical proposals regarding it, including through the use of the updated inventory chart. In the course of the meeting, 13 delegations took the floor, two on behalf of major groups. Many of these welcomed and commended the timing of the meeting, observing that it would allow a calm and dispassionate debate on this topic, since the next process of selection and appointment would not be initiated for a few years.

One delegation stressed that it would be very useful to continue to review experiences now in the light of the next selection process.

51. The majority of speakers explicitly reaffirmed and supported both Article 97 of the Charter and related provisions in General Assembly resolutions. While one group found resolution 11 (I) of 1946 outdated, suggesting that it had been fulfilled and partially amended by subsequent resolutions on the issue and pointing to it explicitly as a means by which the Security Council had assumed too large powers over the years and encroached on the role of the Assembly, another group listed resolution 11 (I) specifically among those to which it attached paramount importance, including the full implementation of its provisions.

52. One delegation, which emphasized that the Security Council and General Assembly had a co-equal role and insisted that the Charter should not be altered, favoured the broadest membership gaining the views of candidates through established mechanisms. It insisted that Article 97 specified a clear process and established an informal practice through which candidates had an opportunity to present their views, and Member States to hear them. It encouraged candidates to engage Member States through such mechanisms and encouraged them to play an active role and to ensure that candidates heard their views. While another delegation supported reasonable proposals, it nevertheless opposed efforts to reallocate to the General Assembly the prerogatives of other organs, insisting that would be in violation of the Charter. Favouring the current practice based on Article 97, it was opposed to changes to it but willing to consider ways of optimizing it, including through more active use of the regional group format and nominations.

53. A subsequent speaker agreed that the distinct roles of the Security Council and the General Assembly were clearly explained in the Charter. Another, affirming that all Member States had a stake in the process and encouraging the exploration of ways to further involve the broader membership in the selection process, nevertheless allowed that the close working relationship between the Secretary-General and the Council made it imperative that the members of the Council had full confidence in him or her. Another delegation, stressing that the role of the Secretary-General had grown extensively, found that this development made it even more important to obtain the widest support of Member States. While the spirit of Article 97 should be honoured, cooperation between the Council and the Assembly should be encouraged, it commented. Although another delegation insisted that the selection process was too important to be left to the Council, and that the Assembly should have a greater say in the process, it also felt that this should not divide the two organs.

54. A different delegation, suggesting that the Security Council had taken on the practice of conducting the selection and appointment process autonomously on the basis of a mistaken interpretation of resolution 11 (I), called for the General Assembly to reaffirm its greater role, which didn't mean changing the Charter, but merely the implementation of its provisions. Another speaker was also of the view that the delegations were not redefining the Charter, but respecting it, and that there was a need to innovate while respecting it. A subsequent speaker agreed, suggesting that, through its use of resolution 11 (I), the Council presented only one candidate to avoid discussion or debate on its choice, insisting that times have changed. The speaker proposed a process that should begin at least nine months before the end of the sitting Secretary-General's term. In such a process: candidates' presentations to

the Assembly would be followed by a question-and-answer period; the President of the General Assembly would give the Council a list of recommended candidates; the Council would select a number of candidates from that list; and the Assembly would make a final choice. Another delegation followed this statement by insisting that Article 97 didn't close the door to the possibility of the Council presenting more than one candidate to the Assembly, arguing that if Article 97 was so clear, why was resolution 11 (I) adopted by the Assembly. The delegation could only but deduce that clarification had been necessary.

55. One group, stressing that the selection and appointment process needed to be more transparent, credible and inclusive of all Member States, also emphasized the importance of making the participation of the General Assembly in the process more active, effective and efficient. Another, reiterating support for the same principles, underscored their importance in ensuring that the candidates for the post of Secretary-General possessed, among other qualities, commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter as well as extensive leadership and administrative and diplomatic experience.

56. More specifically, a number of speakers focused on the role and possible activities of the President of the General Assembly in the selection and appointment process. One group encouraged the President to consult with Member States in order to identify and endorse a list of candidates which could be forwarded to the Security Council, further suggesting that, for that purpose, he could convene hearings or meetings of the General Assembly for an exchange of views with all candidates, thereby making the process more inclusive, transparent and credible. The group also underscored the need for more specific timelines for the selection process and encouraged formal presentation of candidatures in a manner that would allow sufficient time for interaction with Member States. Another group, agreeing that the President of the Assembly could play a role in this process, in particular in consulting with Member States, also concurred that interaction with Member States could be facilitated by the presentation of candidatures in a manner that allowed sufficient time for consultation.

57. Another proposal, advanced as the best way to inaugurate a gender balance in the access to the post of Secretary-General, suggested that regional groups involved in the next selection process should present only female candidates. Listing other major international organizations that were or already had been headed by women, it suggested that the United Nations was lagging behind in this regard, but also clearly indicated that its suggestion was made without prejudice to the sovereign right of Member States to present whomever they wished as candidates. One speaker, expressing concern at the state of implementation of General Assembly resolutions on the subject, noted that not only had there been no female Secretary-General to date, there had as yet been none from Eastern Europe. A subsequent speaker agreed that there needed to be equitable geographical and gender distribution in this process.

58. A number of speakers focused on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit[3] and, more specifically, on its recommendation regarding the holding of hearings/meetings with candidates running for posts as executive heads of organizations of the United Nations common system. One group suggested that such

[3] A/65/71.

hearings could improve the process, enhancing its transparency and credibility by making it more inclusive for Member States. A delegation welcomed closer consideration of selection procedures to ensure legitimacy, transparency, and balance. Another acknowledged that it was not appropriate to assign posts to countries, but suggested that if there were to be geographical rotation, it should take place in a cyclical manner. Taking note of the report, another group commented that it could be noted that the report stated that the selection process of the Secretary-General was unique in comparison with that of the other executive heads, given the role of the Security Council and, in particular, of its permanent members.

59. A number of speakers lamented the low rate of implementation of the provisions of the resolutions generally. One speaker referred to the situation as constituting only the most eloquent examples of the failure of implementation and lack of transparency, finding it a cause for grave concern, and suggesting that the General Assembly should not approve another candidate until the situation changed. Conversely, another urged strict reliance on the prerogatives as established, and yet another suggested that the processes did not lack transparency, but rather ensured due diligence. The final speaker on this point, who felt that it was possible to make progress in reforming and democratizing the process, suggested that doing so could open the door to newer and greater reforms within the Organization.

60. In closing and summarizing the substance of the meeting, the Chair identified, as two of its principal leitmotifs, the need for inclusiveness and interaction, and the need to implement the decisions of the membership of the Organization while respecting the provisions of the Charter. He stressed that the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, in accordance with Article 97, reflected the complementary relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council. The Chair also stated that the meeting had benefited from a range of views, on issues from the framework of the selection and appointment process to the principles that should guide it, to the roles of the organs and actors involved. These views could help move the discussion, and the issue, forward.

Fourth thematic meeting: functions of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, including strengthening its institutional memory, as well as its relationship with the Secretariat

61. The Chair of the Working Group convened its fifth meeting on Monday, 10 June 2013. The meeting, which was also the fourth thematic meeting of the Working Group, focused on the functions of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, including strengthening its institutional memory, as well as its relationship with the Secretariat. As foreseen, it included briefings by the Senior Special Adviser to the President, the Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director, in charge of the capital master plan; the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information and the Director of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. The briefings were followed by an interactive question-and-answer session between the delegations and panellists, and by prepared remarks by nine delegations.

62. In opening the meeting, the Chair commented that many proposals already existed on strengthening both the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the support provided to it. Some focused on a model by which the Office and

President would be supported by an entity modelled very much on the Security Council Affairs Division in the Department of Political Affairs. Others focused on strengthening cohesion and coordination between the principal organs in various combinations and by various means. The Chair noted that the issue had been a focus of the Working Group's attention for a number of sessions, and he expressed the hope that delegations would avail themselves of the presence of the presenters to engage in a lively and productive discussion on it.

63. On the capital master plan, the Assistant Secretary-General focused solely on its current phase, the restoration and renovation of General Assembly Hall. The purpose of the project was to improve both the functionality and security of the space, to bring it from a room built for 60 Member States in the 1940s to one equal to the needs and demands of the present 193 Member States. The restored Hall, which was slated to reopen in time for the 2014 general debate, would be both more sustainable and more secure. Its finishes and carpets would match the originals; the famed Leger murals would be retained; and more seats would be added for delegations and observers. New high-definition screens for both viewing and voting would be placed on either side of the podium, taking up much less space than those currently in use. Sound and video quality would be enhanced, interpreters' booths would be upgraded and electronic nameplates similar to those now in place in the conference rooms would also be installed. There would be real-time captioning, enhanced connectivity and videoconferencing capabilities, and greater accessibility, to the podium in particular.

64. Speaking on behalf of the President of the General Assembly, his Senior Special Adviser began his statement by providing an overview of the functions of the Office and the demands placed upon it. He stressed the extent to which the responsibilities and tasks of the Assembly had expanded continuously since the adoption of the first resolution on revitalization[4] in 1991. During the current session alone, 19 Chairs had been named to facilitate different processes, and 18 thematic meetings and special events had been organized. In addition, four high-level meetings were currently in preparation for the beginning of the sixty-eighth session. In order to maintain this pace, ensure effectiveness and efficiency and maintain continuity, a number of things were required. Adequate staffing was key; four Professional staff were currently assigned to the Office of the President, but at least two more senior Professional staff were needed. Continuity was also vital, and the idea of a "troika" of Presidents that had previously been discussed should be re-examined. The Senior Special Adviser also suggested the possibility of extending the term of each President of the General Assembly to two years. Smooth transitions between presidencies were essential, and, in this context, the Senior Special Adviser urged institutionalizing the briefings provided to incoming Presidents. The support of the Secretariat was also pivotal, and he expressed the Office's strong appreciation for its collaboration with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Public Information and other Departments of the Secretariat. Of crucial importance, however, was the budget: the Senior Special Adviser indicated that the allocated budget of $250,000 had not been raised since 1998, and noted that the system of voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Office, by which funds contributed could be earmarked, had received uneven contributions since its creation. The

[4] Resolution A/46/77.

situation thus created was simply too unpredictable. The Senior Special Adviser recalled an earlier plea by the President of the General Assembly to level the fiscal playing field through a larger allocation from the regular budget to the Office.

65. Regarding Secretariat support, the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information recounted his Department's efforts to tell the story of the United Nations in general and that of the General Assembly in particular every day, in as many languages as possible, and on as many platforms as possible. Indicating the range of activities and programmes involved, from Headquarters to the Department's 63 field offices, reaching non-governmental organizations, youth and other sectors, he noted that many of his Department's efforts to work with the Office of the President and to promote its work were reflected in detail in the updated inventory chart. The Under-Secretary-General also noted, specifically, the spokesperson seconded by the Department of Public Information to the Office of the President, the archival and institutional memory work done by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, and the online tools the Department was developing. These measures, he hoped, would help ensure that the United Nations story could be communicated as broadly and as effectively as possible.

66. From the perspective of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the Director of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division detailed the support provided to the Office of the President through staffing, funding and substantive assistance. Regarding staffing, he mentioned the team of four Professional staff and one General Service staff recruited by the President who were covered by the regular budget, as well as additional support provided by two additional Professional staff and two General Service staff within the Department. In addition, he enumerated support provided by translators and text producers (through the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management), a car and driver (through the Department of Management), a security detail (through the Department of Safety and Security), a spokesperson (through the Department of Public Information) and legal advice (through the Office of Legal Affairs). The total cost of these ran in excess of $1 million. Given all the different kinds of support sought and provided, and the number of departments and budget lines involved, exact funding figures were difficult to track. This was further complicated by the fact that the term of each President was spread over two calendar years. Acknowledging the request to the Secretary-General in resolution 66/246 to submit, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, proposals to review the budget allocation of the President of the General Assembly, in accordance with existing procedures, the Director linked it to ongoing efforts by the Secretariat to increase substantive support to the Office of the President within the current difficult financial situation, mentioning as well the creation and utilization of the Trust Fund. Focusing further on substantive support, he underscored the work of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division in serving as the dedicated central support office, which, furthermore, represented the institutional memory of the Assembly and Office of its President. Such support encompassed analytical, substantive and technical support, including background briefs on specific substantive, procedural or technical questions. The Division also advised incoming Presidents on a wide range of issues related to the forthcoming session and facilitated the work of the Office during the transition period. This substantive

support was provided in addition to a range of conference management and conference support services.

67. In the interactive question-and-answer session that followed the briefings, one group focused immediately on the budget of the Office of the President, underlining the importance of ensuring that it was provided with predictable financing. The group recalled a reference in the inventory/chart annexed to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session (A/63/959) to support being provided to "a limited extent", which was not very clear, in its view. It asked whether Member States needed to formulate more specific language or requests. In response, the Director detailed the uses to which the discretionary budget of the Office (of roughly $300,000) was or could be put. He also listed the kinds of support that were counted within the roughly $1 million covered by the Secretariat, as well as support (such as the 2 Professional and 2 General Service staff in the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division) that was provided above and beyond it. He also underscored, once again, that the four Professional and one General Service staff members selected directly by the President for his cabinet were covered by the regular budget. The Senior Special Adviser of the President commented that it was precisely the range and variety of sources of support to the Office that made a single, centralized budget for the Office impossible. As had been clearly shown by the Secretariat, support was provided by many different Departments under many different budget lines.

68. The group that had raised the question of the budget for the Office also sought clarification on the earmarking of funds donated to the Trust Fund for the Office of the President: did such funding give the Office adequate flexibility? One delegation felt that it was important that Member States be provided with more information on the Trust Fund, and asked whether its records were open and whether they showed which Member States had contributed and which funds were earmarked. Another expressed interest in knowing how contributions to the Fund had been used and which had been earmarked for what purpose. Overall, the Chair felt that there should be a means of tracing and tracking the total current expenditure for the support to the Office from all the sources indicated, and he also asked how much it varied between sessions. The President's Senior Adviser, who noted that the Trust Fund was no longer empty and that a number of contributions had been made to it in the course of the current session, explained that funds could be and often were earmarked to cover specific meetings, travel or staff salaries, although some contributions were unencumbered. However, the unpredictable situation thus created made planning difficult for the Office of the President.

69. Another delegation wanted to know what specifically needed to be done to strengthen institutional memory, whether it could indeed be done within existing resources and whether further funds or posts were required. In response, the Director of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division recalled that a request was being made for an additional P-4 post, to focus solely on providing support in this area. Given the concern that Member States were expressing regarding the retention of institutional memory, it was hoped that they would consider this proposal favourably. The Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information spoke of his Department's ongoing efforts to secure institutional memory by archiving documents and broadcasts. It was developing new online services for easier access, and its transition to its new media asset management system had begun only the week prior. The President's Senior

Special Adviser strongly supported and commended such efforts, but added that what was needed, in addition, was high-level Professional staff with experience and a nuanced sense of the issues, specifically two P-5 posts rather than one P-4 post.

70. One delegation wanted to know how transitions were currently being managed. What was generally done? And what was the current Office of the President doing? Another turned to the issue of secondments. How were candidates selected? How was geographical balance ensured? Was secondment systematized, or done merely at the initiative of Member States? The President's Senior Special Adviser began by flagging one major problem affecting both staffing and budget, explaining that entitlements for staff began only on the first day of the session. For those asked to arrive one or two months earlier, it was the responsibility of their country to pay for that period. He noted that while some countries could comfortably afford such contributions, a number could not, and this had had an impact on the staffing of the Office. Regarding secondments specifically, he explained that they were handled bilaterally, with the Permanent Missions, noting that colleagues had been chosen from a broad range of areas and regions, and stating unequivocally that the Office had been extremely satisfied with the arrangement and the staff provided through it. Expressing little enthusiasm for establishing a system for such secondments, he added that he did not see how it would work.

71. From a general perspective, the Chair wanted to hear the Senior Special Adviser's assessment of the support that the Office of the President was provided by the Secretariat, as well as the Secretariat's sense of the challenges it faced in providing such support. The Special Adviser responded by saying that the Office had worked closely with the Secretariat, that it relied heavily on it and that it enjoyed very good collaboration with it. In response to the Chair's second question, the Director of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division, focusing on a specific challenge currently being confronted, stressed how useful and important the election of the President of the General Assembly and the Chairs of the Main Committees three months before the beginning of the session had proven to be. He noted with concern the problems currently being encountered in the selection of the Chairs of the Main Committees for the upcoming session and urged Member States to do their utmost to resolve them as expeditiously as possible.

72. In the last part of the meeting, nine delegations gave prepared remarks covering many aspects of the issues examined. One group began by focusing on the significant expansion in the role and activities of the President, noting that this meant that many expenses had been assumed by the country of origin of the President. This would place an extra burden on many countries with limited resources, which could not afford such costs, thus creating the risk of inequality of Member States when considering candidature for the post of President of the General Assembly. Regretting that Presidents had had to rely heavily on voluntary contributions, the group did, however, note with satisfaction that contributions had recently been made to the Trust Fund. On staffing, while strongly supporting the assignment of additional posts on a permanent basis, the group also insisted that the geographical balance of the staff be reflective of the membership. It also underscored the importance it attached to ensuring successful annual transitions. Another group, agreeing that it was important to clearly understand the evolution and present scope of the function of the President of the General Assembly, suggested a study by which the Secretariat might help the membership by outlining the existing legal and procedural framework, as well as the practice.

73. Regarding costs, one delegation felt firmly that with many Member States still confronting dire economies, the timing was not appropriate to increase the staffing or budget of the Office of the President. It encouraged Member States to focus on the Trust Fund instead, contributing to it in order to ensure that it was commensurate with the President's activities. Another speaker, recalling firmly that the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions were the proper venues for any discussions on such issues, insisted that the Working Group should focus instead on the use of the precious resources already provided. Yet another, while willing to explore supporting the Office of the President, from within existing resources, urged the careful identification of essential needs.

74. One group focused on a number of best practices, encouraging briefings by the President of the General Assembly on his recent activities and travels, the holding of periodic meetings between the Presidents of the principal organs and the smooth transition between presidencies. The group was specifically supportive of initiatives such as *The PGA Handbook* and the revitalization retreat. In this regard, it also urged that a dedicated section on revitalization be established as part of the website of the President of the General Assembly, and it supported the idea of implementing a comprehensive computerized documentation and archiving system.

75. In his concluding remarks, the Chair mentioned that the discussions reflected the importance of strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the need to ensure continuity and transparency in its work. He also noted the calls to increase the financial resources allocated to the Office through the Fifth Committee. The Chair further highlighted the importance of interaction between the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the Offices of the Presidents of the Economic and Social Council and of the Security Council, as well as with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

III. Conclusion

76. In accordance with its mandate, the Working Group endeavoured to identify key issues of concern and possible consensus, to examine the current status of implementation of those issues and either to take action or to indicate possible further action to be taken on them.

77. At its final meeting, held on 25 July 2013, the Working Group considered and adopted the present report, including the draft resolution contained in section IV below (see para. 79).

IV. Recommendation

78. On the basis of a draft resolution circulated by the Chair, the Ad Hoc Working Group formulated the resolution set out below.

79. At its final meeting, on 25 July 2013, the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly concluded its work for the sixty-seventh session. The Working Group recommended that the Assembly adopt the following draft resolution:

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 66/294 of 17 September 2012 and all other previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,[1]

Recognizing the need to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly,

Reiterating that the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly is a critical component of the overall reform of the United Nations,

Recognizing the role of the General Assembly in addressing issues of peace and security, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the role and authority of the General Assembly on global matters of concern to the international community, including in global governance, as set out in the Charter,

Welcoming the efforts by the President of the General Assembly in advancing the revitalization agenda during its sixty-seventh session,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly, and the updated inventory of General Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed to it;[2]

2. *Decides* to establish, at its sixty-eighth session, an ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, open to all Member States:

(a) To identify further ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, inter alia, by building on the progress achieved in past sessions as well as on previous resolutions, including evaluating the status of their implementation;

(b) To submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

3. *Also decides* that the Ad Hoc Working Group shall continue its review of the inventory of General Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed to its report submitted at the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly, and, as a result, continue to update the inventory to be attached to the report to the sixty-eighth session, and requests the Secretary-General to submit an update on the provisions of the Assembly's resolutions on revitalization addressed to the Secretariat for implementation that have not been implemented, with an indication of the constraints and reasons behind any lack of implementation, for further consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group at the sixty-eighth session;

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[1] 46/77, 47/233, 48/264, 51/241, 52/163, 55/14, 55/285, 56/509, 57/300, 57/301, 58/126, 58/316, 59/313, 60/286, 61/292, 62/276, 63/309, 64/301 and 65/315.

[2] A/67/936.

Role and authority of the General Assembly

4. *Reaffirms* the role and authority of the General Assembly, including on questions relating to international peace and security, in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate, using the procedures set forth in rules 7 to 10 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, which enable swift and urgent action by the Assembly, bearing in mind that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter;

5. *Recognizes* that non-implementation of General Assembly resolutions, including those related to the revitalization of its work, may diminish the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, and underlines the important role and responsibility of Member States in their implementation;

6. *Welcomes* the initiative by the President of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly in selecting "Bringing about adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations by peaceful means" as the overarching theme for the session, with a view to highlighting the role of the Assembly in conflict prevention and resolution;

7. *Recognizes* the value of holding interactive inclusive thematic debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community, and invites the President of the General Assembly to continue this practice and to consult with the General Committee and Member States on the preliminary programme of such debates as well as on the possibilities for achieving, where appropriate, results-oriented and productive outcomes of such debates, and to recommend to the Assembly, at the beginning of each session, the preliminary programme;

8. *Also recognizes* the importance and benefit of continuing interaction between the General Assembly and international or regional forums and organizations dealing with global matters of concern to the international community, as well as with civil society, as and where appropriate, while fully respecting the intergovernmental nature of the Assembly, in conformity with its relevant rules of procedure;

9. *Reaffirms* that the relationship between the principal organs of the United Nations is mutually reinforcing and complementary, in accordance with their respective functions and powers as enshrined in the Charter, and in this regard stresses the importance of ensuring increased cooperation, coordination and the exchange of information among the Presidents of the principal organs and also with the Secretariat of the United Nations, in particular the Secretary-General;

10. *Welcomes* the improvement in the quality of the annual reports of the Security Council to the General Assembly, and encourages the Council to make further improvement as necessary;

11. *Encourages* the Secretariat, including the Department of Public Information, to continue its efforts to raise the visibility of the General Assembly and to enhance world public and media awareness of its work, and

in this regard recalls paragraph 10 of its resolution 67/124 B of 18 December 2012, in which it noted the efforts of the Department of Public Information to continue to publicize the work and decisions of the General Assembly and requested the Department to continue to enhance its working relationship with the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

Working methods

12. *Welcomes* the briefings by the Chairs of the Main Committees of the General Assembly to the Ad Hoc Working Group about the working methods of their respective Committees during the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly, and in this regard encourages the Main Committees to:

(a) Ensure adequate coordination in their work while avoiding overlap and duplication;

(b) Elect the bureau of each Committee at least three months in advance of the session for better coordination and for a smoother hand-over of their work;

(c) Benefit from their respective "QuickPlaces" to facilitate the smooth organization and timely conclusion of their work;

(d) Share experiences, best practices and lessons learned concerning their respective working methods;

13. *Requests* each Main Committee to further discuss its working methods at the beginning of every session, and in this regard invites the Chairs of the Main Committees to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group at the sixty-eighth session, as appropriate;

14. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing the role of the General Committee to support the work of the General Assembly;

15. *Reiterates its requests* that the General Assembly and its Main Committees, at the sixty-eighth session, in consultation with Member States, continue consideration of and make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the Assembly, including through the introduction of a sunset clause, with the clear consent of the sponsoring Member State or Member States, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group;

16. *Decides* to establish a link devoted to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly on the Assembly's page on the United Nations website, from within existing resources, following the model of the websites of the Main Committees;

17. *Encourages* exploring the possibility of electing the non-permanent members of the Security Council and members of the Economic and Social Council earlier than October of each year, as is currently the practice, in order to foster better advance planning and preparation before the members assume such responsibilities;

18. *Notes with appreciation* that the high-level meetings held at the United Nations give more visibility to very important topics, and, while mindful of the need to facilitate full participation of all Member States and to

preserve the integrity of the general debate in September, reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Chairs of the Main Committees, in consultation with the General Committee and Member States, to enhance the coordination of the scheduling of high-level meetings and high-level thematic debates, with a view to optimizing the number and distribution of such events, including through exploring the possibility of scheduling future high-level meetings during the spring, from within existing resources, taking into account the calendar of conferences, and without prejudice to the current practices of convening high-level meetings in September at the beginning of each session of the General Assembly, and convening high-level thematic debates throughout the session, as appropriate;

19. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations bodies and the Secretariat to continue to consult on the consolidation of documentation in order to avoid duplication of work, to exercise the fullest possible discipline in striving for concise resolutions, reports and other documentation, inter alia, by referring to previous documents rather than repeating actual content, and to focus on key themes, and calls upon them to observe existing submission deadlines in order to allow for the timely processing of documents to be examined by intergovernmental bodies;

20. *Urges* the Secretariat, in addition to its current practice of using e-mail, to disseminate important official letters and notifications to all Permanent Missions through facsimile messages;

21. *Encourages* Member States to make full use of the e-services provided by the Secretariat, taking into account the cost savings and the reduced environmental impact that may accrue from this exercise, in order to improve the quality and distribution of documents;

22. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly to prepare arrangements concerning the election of Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees of the General Assembly, with the aim of establishing a predictable, transparent and fair mechanism for the elections at an early stage of its sixty-eighth session, and not later than six months before the start of its sixty-ninth session, and to submit them to the General Assembly not later than three months before the start of its sixty-ninth session, and invites regional groups to be guided by these arrangements for the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the sixty-ninth session;

Selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other Executive Heads

23. *Reaffirms* its commitment to continue, within the Ad Hoc Working Group, in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter, its consideration of the revitalization of the role of the General Assembly in the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, and calls for the full implementation of all relevant resolutions, including resolutions 11 (I) of 24 January 1946, 51/241 of 31 July 1997, 60/286 of 8 September 2006, in particular paragraphs 17 to 22 of the annex thereto, and 64/301 of 13 September 2010;

24. *Recognizes* that the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General differs from the process used with regard to other Executive Heads in the organizations of the United Nations system, given the role of the Security Council in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter, and re-emphasizes the need for the process of selection of the Secretary-General to be transparent and inclusive of all Member States;

25. *Takes note* of the recommendation contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit[3] on the selection and conditions of service of Executive Heads in the organizations of the United Nations system, proposing that the General Assembly conduct hearings or meetings with candidates running for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations;

Strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly

26. *Notes* that the activities of the President of the General Assembly have increased markedly in recent years, recalls provisions regarding support for the Office of the President in previous resolutions, expresses continued interest in seeking ways to further support the Office, in accordance with existing procedures, in particular rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and in this context looks forward to the submission by the Secretary-General of his proposals to review the budget allocation to the Office of the President pursuant to paragraph 32 of resolution 66/246 of 24 December 2011, and paragraph 32 of resolution 66/294;

27. *Encourages* the Presidents of the General Assembly to continue with the practice of periodically briefing Member States on their activities, including official travels;

28. *Underlines* the importance of the contributions of Member States to the Trust Fund in support of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and in this regard encourages Member States to contribute to the Fund;

29. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at the sixty-eighth session, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to report to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the role, mandate and activities of the President of the General Assembly;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Ad Hoc Working Group at the sixty-eighth session on sources of the funding and staffing of the Office of the President of the Assembly, including on any technical, logistical, protocol-related or financial questions, and for more clarification on the budgetary basis for the provision of such a support by the Secretariat;

31. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure, from within agreed resources, that the Office of the President of the General Assembly is allocated dedicated Secretariat staff, with responsibility for coordinating the transition between Presidents, managing interactions between the President of the Assembly and the Secretary-General and the preservation of institutional memory;

[3] A/65/71.

32. *Requests* the outgoing Presidents of the Assembly to brief their successors on the lessons learned and best practices, and requests the Secretariat, in coordination with the Office of the President of the General Assembly, to explore the possibility of issuing a compendium of best practices of past Presidents of the General Assembly, from within existing resources, which could serve to strengthen the institutional memory of the Office.

Annex I

Updated inventory chart of General Assembly resolutions on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly issued pursuant to resolution 66/294

Explanatory note by the Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly (sixty-seventh session)

1. In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 66/294, in which the Assembly decided that the Ad Hoc Working Group on the revitalization of the General Assembly should continue its review of the inventory of Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group submitted at the sixty-third session (A/63/959), and, as a result, issue an updated version of the inventory to be attached to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group at the sixty-seventh session, the Chair, assisted by the Secretariat, has prepared the updated inventory/chart for consideration by Member States.

2. The present inventory/chart has been updated to reflect the progress achieved during the intermediary sessions (from the sixty-third to the sixty-seventh sessions), which is indicated in bold.

3. The Chair, assisted by the Secretariat, obtained updated information, where possible, from relevant entities responsible for implementation, in addition to the information provided in the related reports by the Secretary-General.

4. In order to streamline the inventory/chart and make it more user-friendly for Member States, the Chair has taken the following actions:

(a) The commentary section that was included in the inventory of the sixty-third session was removed, and the comments included in it (three comments) were consolidated in the comments section in italic, in order to reduce the number of columns in the inventory;

(b) The repetitive provisions were consolidated into one provision, with indication of the references to each related resolution, to avoid duplication and redundancy;

(c) The Chart was restructured, for the sake of consistency, according to the latest resolutions of the General Assembly on revitalization by rearranging the clusters and their corresponding paragraphs, without changing the substance.

5. The updated inventory/chart was split into two parts as follows:

(a) The first part contains the unimplemented provisions, in order to focus on their follow-up;

(b) The second part contains the implemented provisions, both those that required one-time action and those with ongoing implementation, in order to keep track of previous achievements and provide the means to compare with and learn from past experience.

6. In practical terms, the updated inventory/chart shall provide clear evidence of ongoing progress and signal the opportunities for further progress.

7. The inventory/chart does not have a definite character and may be amended at any time by Member States through the Ad Hoc Working Group. Furthermore, it is not intended to, and does not, constitute any legal effect. It should only serve as a tool to facilitate the discussions on the follow-up to the implementation of the previous related resolutions.

Part I
Provisions requiring follow-up

Cluster I: role and authority of the General Assembly

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
A.	General provisions related to the role and authority of the General Assembly (See part II)			
B.	Provisions related to the election of the President of the General Assembly and members of the General Committee (See part II)			
C.	**Provisions related to the annual report of the Security Council (See also part II)**			
1.	60/286, annex, para. 7 *Also in*: 59/313, para. 2 (d); and 58/126, annex, para. 2	Also invites the Security Council to submit periodically, in accordance with Articles 15 and 24 of the Charter, special subject-oriented reports to the General Assembly for its consideration on issues of current international concern.	Member States (Security Council)	Since the adoption of resolution 58/126 no special subject-oriented reports have been formally submitted to the General Assembly. The special subjects are to some extent covered by the monthly assessments by the Presidents of the Security Council.
D.	Provisions related to the annual report of the Economic and Social Council (See part II)			
E.	Provisions related to the annual report of the International Court of Justice (See part II)			
F.	Provisions related to public relations activities (See part II)			
G.	Provisions related to the General Assembly cooperation with civil society and others (See part II)			
H.	Provisions related to the organization of work (See part II)			
I.	Provisions related to interactive/thematic debates (See part II)			
J.	Provisions related to the cooperation between the main organs (See part II)			
K.	Provisions related to the implementation and follow-up of resolutions (See part II)			

Cluster II: working methods

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
A.	General provisions related to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (See part II)			
B.	Provisions related to the organization of meetings: Plenary, General Committee, Main Committees (See part II)			
C.	Provisions related to the general debate (See part II)			
D.	Provisions related to the conduct of business: time limits on speeches (See part II)			
E.	Provisions related to modern technologies (See part II)			
F.	**Provisions related to documentation: resolutions (See also part II)**			
2.	60/286, annex, para. 23 *Also in*: 58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 5	Encourages Member States to submit draft resolutions in a more concise, focused and action-oriented form.	Member States	Provision to be implemented by Member States bearing in mind the sovereign right of Member States to submit proposals in the context of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.
G.	**Provisions related to documentation: consolidation of reports (See also part II)**			
3.	58/316, annex, para. 6 (c) *Also in*: 57/300, para. 20	To take the necessary action to initiate the implementation of provisions of paragraph 20 of resolution 57/300, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to start, on a trial basis, a consultative process with the President of the General Assembly and the Chairmen of the Main Committees of the Assembly at the end of the main part of each session of the Assembly, with a view to consolidating reports on related subjects, if decided by the Main Committees.	Secretary-General/ President of the General Assembly/ Member States	Consultations have not been held, as there is no applicable decision by the Main Committees.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
4.	55/285, annex, para. 15 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 32	Member States need to take concrete action to implement paragraph 32 of the annex to resolution 51/241, including by requesting more integrated reports. Paragraph 32 reads: *The number of reports requested shall be rationalized where possible so as to permit more focused consideration of issues. All bodies shall exercise restraint in making proposals containing requests for new reports and should consider integrating, biennializing or triennializing the presentation of reports, bearing in mind paragraphs 6 and 7 of General Assembly resolution 50/206 C of 23 December 1995.*	Member States	Provision to be implemented by Member States.
H. Provisions related to the preparation and issuance of reports (See also part II)				
5.	55/285, annex, para. 17	Member States and entities of the United Nations system should make a serious effort to submit their replies and inputs to requests for information or views pursuant to resolutions of the General Assembly within the prescribed deadlines.	Member States	Provision to be implemented by the Member States.
6.	59/313, para. 17	Encourages Member States, when seeking additional information, to request that they be provided with the information either orally or, if in writing, in the form of information sheets, annexes, tables and the like, and encourages the wider use of this practice.	Member States	Provision to be implemented by the Member States.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
I.	**Provisions related to the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (See also part II)**			
7.	55/285, annex, para. 14 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 7	As regards implementation of paragraph 7 of the annex to resolution 51/241, the President of the General Assembly, after consideration by the Assembly of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, shall inform the Assembly of his assessment of the debate on the report in order for the Assembly to determine the need for further action.	President of the General Assembly	According to the practice, the Secretary-General introduces his report at the beginning of the general debate. Consequently, the President of the General Assembly presents his assessment at the conclusion of the general debate. No additional assessment by the President is provided after plenary meetings of the General Assembly.
8.	51/241, annex, para. 8	The General Assembly in plenary meeting may refer sections of the report for more detailed consideration by the Main Committees.	Member States	Provision has never been applied in practice. However, it does not formulate any definite obligation to refer sections of the report for more detailed consideration by the Main Committees.
J.	Provisions related to the agenda of the General Assembly (See part II)			
K.	**Provisions related to practices and working methods of the Main Committees of the General Assembly (See also part II)**			
9.	60/286, annex, para. 26	Decides, in that respect, to give due consideration to those recommendations of the Main Committees regarding the improvement of their working methods and the allocation of agenda items which require the approval of the General Assembly for their implementation.	Member States (General Assembly)	Provision to be implemented by Member States.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
L. Provisions related to the General Committee				
10.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (e)	The General Committee, meeting in open-ended consultations, shall continue to consider the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items of the customary agenda of the General Assembly and make recommendations thereon to the Assembly during its fifty-ninth session.	General Committee	Since the adoption of the provision the General Committee has made no recommendations to the General Assembly on the biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items of its customary agenda.
11.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (g)	At the beginning of each session, the General Committee, following recommendations from the President of the General Assembly, shall recommend to the Assembly a programme of, and format for, interactive debates on the items on its agenda.	General Committee	Since the adoption of the provision the General Committee has made no recommendations to the General Assembly on a programme of interactive debates on the items on its agenda.

Cluster III: selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
A.	**General provision related to the selection of the Secretary-General**			
12.	60/286, annex, para. 17 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 57	Recalls Article 97 of the Charter, as well as the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 11 (I) of 24 January 1946 and 51/241, as relevant to the role of the Assembly in appointing the Secretary-General, upon the recommendation of the Security Council.		No specific action.
13.	60/286, annex, para. 22	Emphasizes the importance of candidates for the post of Secretary-General possessing and displaying, inter alia, commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, extensive leadership, and administrative and diplomatic experience.		No specific action.
B.	**Provisions related to the selection process (See also part II)**			
14.	60/286, annex, para. 19 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 60	Encourages, without prejudice to the role of the principal organs as enshrined in Article 97 of the Charter, the President of the General Assembly to consult with Member States to identify potential candidates endorsed by a Member State and, upon informing all Member States of the results, to forward those results to the Security Council.	Member States, President of the General Assembly	No consultations upon the appointment of a new Secretary-General have taken place. Provision to be implemented every five years.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
15.	60/286, annex, para. 20	Also encourages formal presentation of candidatures for the position of Secretary-General in a manner that allows sufficient time for interaction with Member States, and requests candidates to present their views to all States members of the General Assembly.	Member States	Presentation of candidature is being made in the form of letters to the Security Council. Since the adoption of that provision, there have been no formal meetings with the candidates in the General Assembly.
C. Provisions related to the appointment and duration of the term (See also part II)				
16.	51/241, annex, para. 58	The duration of the term or terms of appointment, including the option of a single term, shall be considered before the appointment of the next Secretary-General.	Member States	Member States decide on the duration of the term on a case-by-case basis, on the recommendation of the Security Council.

Cluster IV: strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
A.	Provisions related to the financial, logistic and technical support for the President of the General Assembly (See part II)			
B.	**Provisions related to the competencies of the President of the General Assembly (See also part II)**			
17.	66/294, para. 31 *Also in*: 64/301, para. 10 (for 2012-13 biennium budget)	Requests the Secretary-General to submit, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, proposals to review the budget allocation to the Office of the President of the General Assembly in accordance with existing procedures.	Secretary-General	The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 is due to be considered in the Fifth Committee during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

Part II

Provisions that have been implemented or are being implemented on an ongoing basis

Cluster I: role and authority of the General Assembly

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
A. General provisions related to the role and authority of the General Assembly				
18.	66/294, para. 4 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 4; 64/301, para. 4; 60/286, annex I, para. 1; and 59/313, para. 2 (b)	Reaffirms the role and the authority of the General Assembly, including on questions relating to international peace and security, as stipulated in Articles 10 to 14 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate, using the procedures set forth in rules 7 to 10 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which enable swift and urgent action by the Assembly, bearing in mind that the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter.	Member States	Ongoing provision. The General Assembly has a number of items on its agenda that fall under this provision. Since the adoption of this provision, the tenth emergency special session held its 30th and 31st plenary meetings on 15 December 2006 and its 32nd and 33rd plenary meetings on 15 and 16 January 2009.
B. Provisions related to the election of the President of the General Assembly and members of the General Committee				
19.	58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 9	In accordance with paragraph 2 (a) and (c) of resolution 56/509, the General Assembly elects the President of the Assembly, the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, and the Chairmen of the Main Committees at least three months before the opening of the session in which they will serve. In order to foster better advance planning and preparation of the work of the Main Committees, the full bureaux of the Main Committees shall similarly be elected three months in advance of the next session.	Member States	Ongoing provision. Provision implemented as from the fifty-eighth session. This provision as well as rules 30 and 99 (a) apply to the election of the President of the General Assembly and the Vice-Presidents.

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
C. Provisions related to the annual report of the Security Council (See also part I)				
20.	66/294, para. 11 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 10; and 64/301, para. 9	Welcomes the improvements that have been made in the quality of the annual reports of the Security Council to the General Assembly, encourages the Council to make further improvements as necessary, and takes note of the holding of informal meetings of the President of the Council with all Member States before the preparation of the report.	Security Council	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. Further to the measures contained in the notes by the President of the Security Council of 26 July 2010 (S/2010/507) and of 5 June 2012 (S/2012/402), presidencies may consider organizing interactive informal exchanges of views with the wider membership prior to the adoption of the report.
21.	60/286, annex, para. 4 *Also in*: 58/126, annex, para. 3	Invites the Security Council to further its initiatives to improve the quality of its annual report to the General Assembly, mandated by Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter, in order to provide the Assembly with a substantive and analytical report.	Security Council	The report of the Security Council is being improved in a gradual manner. In the 1990s the report was changed to reflect changes in the working methods of the Security Council. Since 2000, further changes have been introduced; inter alia, the introductory part has been added. Since then, the Security Council has focused more on the introduction to the report. In 2006, information on special political missions was added to the report. Since the sixty-third session, the report has been prepared on the basis of new guidelines according to the findings of the Security Council Working Group on Documentation.
22.	59/313, para. 2 (c) *Also in*: 59/313, para. 2 (f)	To consider the annual reports as well as special reports of the Security Council, in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 1, and Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter, through substantive and interactive debates.	General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The annual report of the Security Council is being considered through substantive and interactive debates.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
23.	51/241, annex, para. 11	The agenda item entitled "Report of the Security Council" shall continue to be considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly.	General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The annual report of the Security Council is considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly.
24.	51/241, annex, para. 14	The monthly forecast of the programme of work of the Security Council shall be circulated for the information of members of the General Assembly.	Security Council	Implemented on an ongoing basis. Member States are provided with the monthly forecast of the programme of work of the Security Council in hard copies. The programme of work is also uploaded on the website of the Security Council.
25.	60/286, annex, para. 5 *Also in*: 58/126, annex, para. 4; and 51/241, annex, para. 12	In carrying out the assessment of the debate on the annual report of the Security Council called for in paragraph 12 of the annex to resolution 51/241, the President shall inform the General Assembly of his decision regarding the need for further consideration of the report of the Council, including in respect of the convening of informal consultations, on the need for, and content of, any action by the Assembly based on the debate, as well as on any matters to be brought to the attention of the Council.	President of the General Assembly	To date, consideration of the annual report of the Security Council has been held in the plenary only.
26.	51/241, annex, para. 12	The President of the General Assembly shall assess the debate on this item and consider the need for further consideration of the report of the Security Council.	President of the General Assembly	Implemented on an ongoing basis. The President of the General Assembly provides opening remarks and a closing assessment of the debate.
27.	51/241, annex, para. 13	The agenda item shall not be closed but shall remain open to enable further discussion as necessary during the year, bearing in mind, inter alia, the submission of additional reports as and when necessary.	Member States (General Assembly)	Since the sixty-second session, the agenda item has remained open at every session.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
D. Provisions related to the annual report of the Economic and Social Council				
28.	60/286, annex, para. 8	Invites the Economic and Social Council to continue to prepare its report to the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 50/227, striving to make it more concise and action-oriented by highlighting the critical areas requiring action by the Assembly and, as appropriate, by making specific recommendations for consideration by the Member States.	Member States (Economic and Social Council)	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
29.	51/241, annex, para. 15	The report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly shall be prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/227. The report shall also contain an evaluation of the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, taking into account the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.	Member States (Economic and Social Council)	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
E. Provisions related to the annual report of the International Court of Justice				
30.	51/241, annex, para. 16	The report of the International Court of Justice shall continue to be considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly. The Assembly shall continue to support the role of the International Court of Justice as the principal judicial organ of the Organization, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The Assembly shall also continue to encourage the progressive development and codification of international law.	General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. Since the fifty-second session the report has continued to be considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly.

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
F. Provisions related to public relations activities				
31.	66/294, para. 22 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 18; 64/301, para. 20; 63/309, para. 8; and 60/286, annex, para. 14	Requests the Department of Public Information to continue to enhance its working relationship with the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and stresses the importance of further enhancing public and media awareness of the work and decisions of the Assembly, including through their timely issuance and distribution in all official languages.	Secretariat	The Department of Public Information provides extensive coverage of the work of the General Assembly, its Committees and all major subsidiary bodies through print, online, audio and video news media. Wire-agency style news stories put out by the United Nations News Centre in the six official languages are a key part of this coverage. The President of the General Assembly is regularly interviewed and featured on the United Nations News Centre and United Nations Radio. The Department of Public Information also provides comprehensive press releases, in English and French, of all meetings of the Assembly, its main committees and its subsidiary bodies, which are also included in the daily media alert, and statements made by Member States are made available in print and online form to the press. The annual press kit on the incoming President of the General Assembly is produced in the six official languages as well as in a number of non-official languages. United Nations Radio, whose general debate coverage includes a series of interviews with visiting officials that are broadcast in different languages, also places links to the text of general debate speeches on its website. United Nations Television and Video provides gavel-to-gavel live feeds to broadcasters around the world of the meetings of the General Assembly, as well as related press conferences. This

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
				coverage is also made available on the United Nations webcast platform. In the sixty-seventh session, for the first time, as mandated by the General Assembly, the Department of Public Information provided live and on-demand webcast coverage of all Main Committee meetings. United Nations Photo also provided thorough coverage of the General Assembly during the reporting period, with photos available on the United Nations Photo website. Through social media platforms, the Department of Public Information further communicates information about the work and priorities of the Assembly. These include YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and Sina Weibo. The quarterly *United Nations Chronicle*, the annual *Yearbook of the United Nations* and *Basic Facts About the United Nations* also contain extensive coverage of the structure and function of the General Assembly. In addition, the new smart phone educational application "United Nations calendar of observances: making a difference" promotes awareness of and action on important issues before the General Assembly, as well as ways to become involved in related events and links to further information. Through its weekly Thursday briefing programme for the non-governmental community, the Department of Public Information also covers issues before the General Assembly. Its Creative Community Outreach Initiative has facilitated filming in the General Assembly Hall for

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
				television and film productions, and its annual five-week-long training programme for journalists from developing countries and countries with economies in transition exposes junior and mid-level journalists to the work of the United Nations during the general debate. The Department of Public Information's network of 62 United Nations Information Centres, Services and Offices also continue to carry out numerous public information activities to enhance awareness of the work of the General Assembly. The Centres widely disseminated press kits for the sixty-sixth and sixty-seventh sessions of the Assembly that were frequently translated into local languages and disseminated to media representatives, Government officials and civil society. The Department of Public Information further enhanced public and media awareness of the work and decisions of the General Assembly by disseminating messages from the Spokesperson of the President of the General Assembly to field duty stations. United Nation Information Centres also provide media and communication support to the President of the General Assembly during official visits to the countries where they are located. The Department of Public Information regularly seconds a staff member at the Professional level to serve as the spokesperson for the President of the General Assembly. In addition, the Committee on Information continues to consider

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
				ways and means to enhance the visibility of the work of the General Assembly, including through the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group.
32.	66/294, para. 14 *Also in*: 60/286, annex, para. 15	Urges the Secretariat to continue its efforts to raise the visibility of the General Assembly, reaffirms paragraph 15 of resolution 60/286, and decides that the announcements about the work of the principal organs of the United Nations should appear in the *Journal of the United Nations* in the order stipulated in Article 7 of the Charter. Urges the Secretariat to continue its endeavours to raise the visibility of the General Assembly and, to that end, requests the rearrangement of items in the *Journal* so that listings of plenary meetings and other major events of the General Assembly may appear alongside those of the meetings of the Security Council.	Secretariat	Implemented on an ongoing basis. Pursuant to resolution 66/294, announcements about the work of the principal organs of the United Nations in the *Journal of the United Nations* appear in the order stipulated in Article 7 of the Charter. In an effort to raise the visibility of the General Assembly, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management periodically briefs media on the programme of work of the General Assembly. As from the sixty-first session the items in the *Journal of the United Nations* have been rearranged (A/61/483 and A/62/608).
33.	60/286, annex, para. 16	Encourages the Presidents of the General Assembly to increase their public visibility, including through enhanced contacts with representatives of the media and civil society, thus promoting the activities of the Assembly, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue the practice of providing to the Office of the President of the Assembly a Spokesperson for the President of the Assembly and an assistant to the Spokesperson.	President of the General Assembly, Secretary-General	Ongoing provision. Since the sixtieth session, for example, the Presidents of the General Assembly, together with the Chairmen of the Main Committees, have periodically briefed representatives of civil society on the programme of work of the Assembly at its current sessions (see also A/61/483, p. 20 and A/62/608, p. 15). As indicated in row 30 above, the Department of Public Information regularly seconds a staff member at the Professional level to serve as the spokesperson for the President of the General Assembly, in addition to providing support to the President and his Office by a number of other means.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
34.	58/126, annex, para. 8	The work and decisions of the General Assembly should be better publicized. Accordingly, the support provided by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat for these purposes should be intensified and strengthened. The Secretary-General is requested to present a plan to this end, within existing resources, to the next session of the Committee on Information, so that recommendations can be made to the Assembly.	Secretary-General (Department of Public Information)	One-time action. A plan was presented by the Secretary-General to the Committee on Information at its twenty-sixth session (see A/AC.198/2004/6; see also resolutions 59/126 B and 60/286, annex, para. 14, A/61/483, p. 11 and A/62/608).
G. Provisions related to the General Assembly cooperation with civil society and others				
35.	60/286, annex, para. 12	Encourages enhanced interaction, as and where appropriate, with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in particular those from developing countries, on relevant issues.	General Assembly	Ongoing provision. Since the sixtieth session, for example, the Presidents of the General Assembly, together with the Chairs of the Main Committees, have periodically briefed representatives of civil society on the programme of work of the Assembly at its current sessions (A/61/483, p. 20, and A/62/608, p. 15).
36.	60/286, annex, para. 13	Also encourages, where appropriate, continued cooperation between the General Assembly and national and regional parliaments, particularly through the Inter-Parliamentary Union.	General Assembly	Provision has been implemented on an ongoing basis. Numerous meetings have been held between the President of the General Assembly and visiting parliamentarians. The Inter-Parliamentary Union also participates as an observer in debates of the General Assembly.
H. Provisions related to the organization of work				
37.	55/285, annex, para. 19 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 28	In order to implement fully paragraph 28 of the annex to resolution 51/241, the President of the General Assembly is encouraged to make greater use of facilitators, where appropriate.	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
38.	51/241, annex, para. 27	The General Assembly is the highest political body with universal membership of the Organization. Consideration of agenda items directly in plenary meetings shall be reserved for urgent issues or issues of major political importance, bearing in mind paragraphs 1 and 2 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/264.	General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
39.	51/241, annex, para. 28	The President of the General Assembly, with a view to ensuring that there is a systematic and transparent process for participation by delegations in discussions on action to be taken on items considered directly in plenary meetings, shall assess the debate in plenary meetings.	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. Usually, the President of the General Assembly provides his assessment of the debates in plenary meetings whenever items considered are of particular importance or special interest to Member States.
40.	51/241, annex, para. 29	The Secretariat shall ensure, in consultation with the President, that priority is accorded to the availability of a meeting room and services to facilitate these consultations.	Secretary-General	Provision is being implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat.
I. Provisions related to interactive/thematic debates				
41.	66/294, para. 7 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 6; 64/301, para. 5; 60/286, annex, para. 3; 59/313, para. 3 (a); and 58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 3;	Welcomes the holding of thematic debates and invites the President of the General Assembly to continue this practice and to consult with Member States on the possibilities for achieving, where appropriate, results-oriented outcomes in such debates. Encourages the holding of thematic interactive debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community in the General Assembly, and invites the President of the Assembly to propose themes for such interactive debates, in consultation with Member States	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The Presidents of the General Assembly regularly inform Member States by letter of the format and agenda of forthcoming thematic debates whose outcomes are posted on the website of the President of the Assembly. For a list of thematic debates convened during each session, please refer to the websites of the Presidents of the General Assembly.

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
42.	59/313, para. 12	Encourages the holding of interactive debates with a view to contributing to intergovernmental decision-making.	Member States (General Assembly)	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
J. Provisions related to the cooperation between the main organs				
43.	66/294, para. 10 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 9; 64/301, paras. 7 and 8; 60/286, annex, para. 2; 58/126, annex, para. 6; 55/285, annex, para. 21; and 51/241, annex, para. 43	Stresses the importance of ensuring increased cooperation, coordination and exchange of information among the principal organs, welcomes the holding of regular meetings of the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session with the Secretary-General and the Presidents of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, as well as with the Chairs of subsidiary bodies, and briefings to Member States on the outcomes of these meetings on a regular basis, and encourages the continuation of such practice.	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
44.	58/126, annex, para. 5	The President of the General Assembly should continue to be briefed regularly by the President of the Security Council on the work of the Council. The President of the Assembly may wish to inform Member States about the substantive issues raised during these meetings.	President of the Security Council, President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council are meeting at monthly intervals.
45.	60/286, annex, para. 6 *Also in*: 59/313, para. 2 (e)	Invites the Security Council to update the General Assembly on a regular basis on the steps it has taken.	Member States (Security Council)	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. Information on the steps taken by the Security Council is provided during the meetings with the President of the General Assembly as well as included in the monthly assessments by the Presidents of the Security Council.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
K. Provisions related to the implementation and follow-up of resolutions				
46.	66/294, para. 3 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 3; and 64/301, para. 3	Decides that the Ad Hoc Working Group shall continue its review of the inventory of General Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group submitted at the sixty-third session of the Assembly,[a] and, as a result, issue an updated version of the inventory to be attached to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group at the sixty-seventh session.	General Assembly (Ad Hoc Working Group)	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. Pursuant to resolution 66/294, the Ad Hoc Working Group has before it an updated version of the inventory to be attached to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.
47.	66/294, para. 3 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 3; and 64/301, para. 3	Requests the Secretary-General to submit an update on the provisions of the Assembly resolutions on revitalization addressed to the Secretariat for implementation that have not been implemented, with an indication of the constraints and reasons behind any lack of implementation, for further consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.	Secretary-General	Implemented. The report requested (A/66/730) was issued on 6 March 2012. An update (A/67/710) was issued on 28 January 2013 for consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.
48.	58/126, annex, para. 9	Member States and the Secretariat should consider initiatives that might be taken for better monitoring of the follow-up of resolutions of the General Assembly, such as the provision of timely inputs for reports of the Secretary-General and giving effect to proposals that would advance the follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits.	Member States, Secretary-General	Communications from the Secretary-General have been sent to Member States on an ongoing basis to ask for pertinent information (A/61/483 and A/62/608).
49.	59/313, para. 1	Stresses the need to demonstrate political will to ensure the effective implementation of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.	Member States	Ongoing provision. Provision does not contain request for specific action.

[a] A/63/959.

Cluster II: working methods

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
A. General provisions related to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly				
50.	60/286, annex, para. 24 *Also in*: 59/313, para. 14	Requests the Secretary-General to issue the rules of procedure of the General Assembly in a consolidated version in all official languages, in print and online.	Secretary-General	One-time action. The consolidated version of the rules of procedure is set out in document A/520/Rev.16 and Corr.1, both in print and online (A/62/608, p. 15).[b]
51.	60/286, annex, para. 24	Requests the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat to make precedents and past practice available in the public domain with respect to rules and practices of the intergovernmental bodies of the Organization.	Secretary-General/Office of Legal Affairs	Implemented. See http://untreaty.un.org/ola/publications_2.aspx
B. Provisions related to the organization of meetings: Plenary, General Committee, Main Committees				
52.	66/294, para. 9 *Also in*: 65/315 para. 8	Welcomes the holding of periodic informal briefings by the Secretary-General and encourages him to continue this practice.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The Secretary-General periodically briefs Member States in informal plenary meetings of the General Assembly on his priorities, travels and most recent activities.

[b] A revised edition of the rules of procedure has been issued under the symbol A/520/Rev.17. Available also from un.org/ga/ropga.shtml.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
53.	66/294, para. 20 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 16	Reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Chairs of the Main Committees, in consultation with Member States, to enhance the coordination of the scheduling of high-level meetings with a view to optimizing the number and distribution of such events.	Secretary-General, President of the General Assembly, Main Committee Chairs, Member States	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The Secretariat takes an active role in providing advice, as requested, in the consultations on high-level plenary meetings and other events scheduled near the general debate, to ensure optimum scheduling and utilization. The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management also regulary briefs Member States on arrangements for the forthcoming general debate and other high-level meetings convened in its vicinity. Further, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General has adopted an internal mechanism to ensure the coordination of initiatives emanating from departments and offices of the Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations.
54.	59/313, para. 11	Strongly urges all officers presiding over meetings of the General Assembly to start such meetings on time.	Secretary-General/ Department of General Assembly and Conference Management	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat. Periodically, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management provides presiding officers with statistics on the financial impact of the implementation of this provision (A/61/483, p. 19, and A/62/608).
55.	58/316, annex, para. 1 (b)	With effect from the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the meetings of the plenary Assembly shall normally be held on Mondays and Thursdays.	Secretary-General/ Department for General Assembly and Conference Management	As from the fifty-ninth session, plenary meetings of the Assembly are scheduled and held on Mondays and Thursdays to the extent possible (A/61/483, p. 13, and A/62/608).
56.	58/126, annex, sect. B para. 2	The work of the Main Committees of the General Assembly might benefit if it is scheduled over two substantive periods during the session. ... With a view to enabling the Assembly to consider changes in this regard, with effect from the sixtieth session of the Assembly, the	Secretary-General	One-time action. In response to this request, the Secretariat circulated a note entitled "Options for the rescheduling of the Main Committees of the General Assembly" (A/58/CRP.3), which the Assembly considered at its fifty-eighth session (A/61/483, p. 12, and A/62/608, p. 7).

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		Secretary-General is requested to present, by 1 February 2004, various options for consideration by the General Committee, taking into account the requirements of the relevant intergovernmental bodies and the different locations of their meetings and the budget cycle.		
C.	**Provisions related to the general debate**			
57.	57/301, para. 2 *Also in*: 57/301, para. 3; and 51/241, annex, paras. 19 and 20 (a)	Also decides that the general debate in the General Assembly shall open on the Tuesday following the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly and shall be held without interruption over a period of nine working days.	Secretary-General/ Department for General Assembly and Conference Management	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. Included in annex VIII to the rules of procedure. The general debate opens on the Tuesday following the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly and is being held without interruption over a period of nine working days.
58.	51/241, annex, para. 20 (b)-(e)	The preparation of the list of speakers for the general debate shall be based on the following principles: (b) Member States shall be invited to indicate three preferences for speaking times; (c) Member States wishing to organize or participate in group meetings during the general debate period shall be encouraged to coordinate their responses to the	Secretary-General/ Department for General Assembly and Conference Management	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat. The preparation of the list is based on the expressions of preference, traditions and internal criteria, e.g., written request by a Member State, level of the representation, previous speaker slot, gender balance, geographical diversity, etc.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		request for preferences and to indicate this transparently in their responses; (d) The Secretariat shall be requested to prepare a list of speakers based on existing traditions and expressions of preference to best accommodate Members' needs; (e) The list of speakers for each day shall be completed and no speakers will be rolled over to the next day, notwithstanding the implications for hours of work.		
D.	**Provisions related to the conduct of business: time limits on speeches**			
59.	59/313, para. 10	Decides that time limits on speeches in the plenary Assembly and in the Main Committees shall be applied in accordance with rules 72 and 114 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.	Member States/Secretary-General/President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat, the President of the General Assembly and Member States, bearing in mind the sovereign right of each Member State to express its national position.
60.	51/241, annex, para. 22	Outside the general debate there shall be a 15-minute time limit in plenary meetings and in the Main Committees.	Member States	Ongoing provision. Provision to be applied by Member States bearing in mind the sovereign right of each Member State to express its national position.
61.	59/313, para. 13	Invites Member States that are aligned with statements already made by the chair of a group of	Member States	Provision to be implemented by Member States bearing in mind the sovereign right of each Member State to express its national position.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
		Member States, where possible, to focus additional interventions that they make in their national capacity on points that have not already been adequately addressed in the statements of the group in question, bearing in mind the sovereign right of each Member State to express its national position.		
E.	**Provisions related to modern technologies**			
62.	66/294, para. 15	Urges the Secretariat to disseminate, in addition to the current practice of e-mail, important official letters and notifications to all Permanent Missions through fax messages.	Secretariat	All important official communications are transmitted by e-mail and, where delivery is not successful, by fax.
63.	66/294, para. 23 *Also in*: 64/301, para. 19	Encourages Member States to make full use of the e-services provided by the Secretariat, taking into account the cost savings and the reduced environmental impact that may accrue from this exercise, in order to improve the quality and distribution of documents.	Member States	Ongoing provision. A simple and fast alternate way to access United Nations parliamentary documents electronically is available through the e-subscription service of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, available from http://undocs.org. Using Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds, the latest edition of the *Journal of the United Nations* and parliamentary documents issued daily at Headquarters can be accessed readily on a computer or handheld smart device. Sign-up is free and easy by visiting the e-subscription page at http://undocs.org. Further, the websites of the Main Committees and subsidiary bodies are regularly updated to facilitate rapid, easy access to pre-session, in-session and post-session documents of those bodies. In the Main Committees, delegations are also increasingly making use of the possibility of

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
				circulating their statements electronically through Main Committee websites, or Quickplaces, and reading out shorter remarks. In addition, some Main Committees are using these sites to post advance speakers lists and statements of programme budget implications, as well as national statements. At the request of Member States, a number of these sites have now been made operational year-round, rather than during the main part of the session only.
64.	66/294, para. 24 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 19; 64/301, para. 21; 63/309, para. 9; 60/286, annex, para. 28; 59/313, para. 15; and 55/285, annex, para. 24 (a)	Decides that the Ad Hoc Working Group shall remain apprised of options for more time-effective, efficient and secure balloting, reiterating the need to ascertain the credibility, reliability and confidentiality of the balloting process, and requests the Secretariat to submit an update in case of any new technological developments, on the understanding that the adoption of any new balloting system in the future will require a decision of the plenary of the General Assembly.	Secretariat; General Assembly (Ad Hoc Working Group)	Implemented on an ongoing basis. The Ad Hoc Working Group receives periodic updates from the Secretariat in case of any new technological developments.
65.	63/309, para. 7	Calls upon Member States to respond to the annual review of the Meetings and Publishing Division of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management on the distribution of printed	Member States	Ongoing provision. Member States have been responding favourably to the annual review of the Meetings and Publishing Division, resulting in decreased requests for hard copies of parliamentary documents and an increase in the number of requests for e-subscription to digital copies of documents.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		documents to Missions, bearing in mind the cost savings, as well as the reduced environmental impact, which may accrue from this exercise, in order to improve the quality and distribution of those documents.		
66.	55/285, annex, para. 24 (b) and (c)	Taking into account the general support in this regard, the Secretary-General is requested to submit proposals to the General Assembly for its consideration: (b) Wiring of the main conference rooms at Headquarters to provide members of delegations and the Secretariat with access to the Official Document System and other databases of the Organization, as well as to the Internet, together with electronic access to texts of statements and reports and, in the case of reports, simultaneous access to texts in all official languages; (c) Other areas of the work of the Assembly in which the use of modern technology and information technology would contribute to enhancing efficiency in its working methods.	Secretary-General	Implemented. The Official Document System is now fully operational. Further, the PaperSmart portal provides electronic access to texts of statements of and reports to Member States and the Secretariat, as well as parliamentary documents in all official languages.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
67.	51/241, annex, para. 45	The Secretary-General is requested to pursue an information technology plan with a range of options to provide all permanent missions to the United Nations and the wider public with online access to documents and relevant United Nations information. Unless the General Assembly decides otherwise, hard copies of documents shall continue to be distributed to permanent missions in accordance with their needs. While welcoming the progress made by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics of the Economic and Social Council, further efforts in this direction could be pursued within a specified time frame to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems. All countries, in particular developing countries, shall be assisted in making full use of this potential access. Adequate provision should be made for training delegates. Facilities for such access by delegations	Secretary-General	Implemented. The Official Document System has been fully operational and accessible. In addition to electronic means, hard copies continue to be distributed to Permanent Missions as requested. Further, a range of options including online access (in and beyond conference rooms), print-on-demand hard copies, knowledge management and video training is being implemented through PaperSmart. The PaperSmart team is also undertaking further studies and assessments.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		within the United Nations premises shall also be expanded as much as possible. Availability of information in this manner should be ensured in all official languages of the United Nations.		
68.	51/241, annex, para. 46	The Secretary-General is encouraged to include information on the impact of technological improvements in his report on the implementation of mandates, by means of comparing outputs with objectives.	Secretary-General	See comments for provisions 65 and 66 above. In addition, recording and assessment of indicators and outputs is currently being undertaken by the PaperSmart team.
F.	**Provisions related to documentation: resolutions (See also part I)**			
69.	66/294, para. 21 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 17	Encourages Member States, United Nations bodies and the Secretariat to continue to consult on the consolidation of documentation in order to avoid duplication of work, to exercise the fullest possible discipline in striving for concise resolutions, reports and other documentation, inter alia, by referring to previous documents rather than repeating actual content, and to focus on key themes.	Member States, Secretariat	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. This issue is frequently examined in a number of intergovernmental bodies.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
G.	**Provisions related to documentation: consolidation of reports (See also part I)**			
70.	60/286, annex, para. 29 *Also in*: 59/313, para. 16; 58/316, annex, para. 6 (c); and 58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 7	Requests the Secretary-General to implement further the measures set out in paragraph 20 of resolution 57/300 on the consolidation of reports and in paragraph 6 of the annex to resolution 58/316 on documentation.	Secretary-General	In response to the provision formulated in resolution 57/300, the Secretariat has issued a note entitled "Control and limitation of documentation" (A/58/CRP.7). Since the adoption of this resolution, a number of reports, where appropriate, have been consolidated (A/61/483, p. 21, and A/62/608). The Main Committees regularly examine the issue of consolidation of documentation, particularly when considering their working methods in the context of the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.
71.	58/316, annex, para. 6 *Also in*: 59/313, para. 16	In the light of its decision in section B, paragraph 7, of the annex to resolution 58/126 that the heavy volume of documentation that is submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration should be reduced, the Secretary-General is requested: (a) To update the note by the Secretariat, entitled "Control and limitation of documentation" (A/58/CRP.7) in the light of the provisions of the present resolution; (b) To submit the updated version of the note by the Secretariat for the consideration of the General Committee, meeting in open-ended consultations,	Secretary-General	In response to the provision formulated in resolution 57/300, the Secretariat has issued a note entitled "Control and limitation of documentation" (A/58/CRP.7). The note has not been updated, lacking the endorsement of Member States.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		so that it may make recommendations to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.		
72.	55/285, annex, para. 16	In preparing the annual memorandum concerning the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the secretariat of the Assembly, in consultation with the substantive departments of the Secretariat, should look for synergies and integration of reports.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat. The annual memorandum concerning the implementation of the resolutions contains a paragraph on the need for possible integration of reports.
H.	**Provisions related to the preparation and issuance of reports (See also part I)**			
73.	66//294, para. 21 *Also in*: 59/313, para. 18; and 49/221 B, para. 6 (c)	Calls upon Member States, United Nations bodies, and the Secretariat to observe existing submission deadlines so as to allow for the timely processing of documents to be examined by intergovernmental bodies.	Member States, Secretariat	Ongoing provision. In response to this request, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management has entered into a compact with the Secretary-General which provides for zero tolerance of late submission of documents (A/61/483 and A/62/608).
74.	55/285, annex, para. 18	The Secretary-General is requested to make further suggestions as to how to speed up the preparation of reports and to rationalize the scheduling of meetings. The Secretary-General shall keep the President of the	Secretary-General	The Secretary-General continues to make recommendations in his memorandums on organization of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (see the most recent one, A/BUR/67/1).

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		General Assembly and the General Committee informed on this issue on a regular basis throughout the sessions of the Assembly.		
I.	**Provisions related to the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (See also part I)**			
75.	51/241, annex, para. 4	The introduction to the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization should be in the nature of an executive summary highlighting main issues.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented by the Secretariat. The introduction to the report on the work of the Organization is presented in the form of an executive summary highlighting the main issues.
76.	51/241, annex, para. 5 *Also in*: 55/285, annex, para. 13	The main body of the report shall be comprehensive, informative and analytical in a way that will allow Member States to examine and assess, inter alia, through the debate on the report, the extent to which mandates given by the General Assembly have been fulfilled, as well as to set priorities in the context of the major political, economic and social, administrative and financial issues on its agenda.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented by the Secretariat on an ongoing basis.
77.	51/241, annex, para. 6 *Also in*:	The Secretary-General shall incorporate a [new] forward-looking section in his report	Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
	55/285, annex, para. 13	on the work of the Organization. It shall describe the specific goals for the Secretariat in the year ahead in the context of the work plan for the Organization in the coming year, taking into account the medium-term plan and the fact that the responsibility for establishing priorities rests with the Member States.		
78.	51/241, annex, para. 9 *Also in*: 55/285, annex, para. 13	The report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization shall, inter alia, contain an analytical and concise annex elaborating the costs by major programmes and activities of all bodies of the United Nations system, located both in and outside New York, according to their mandates, so as to improve Member States' overview of system-wide issues.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat.
79.	51/241, annex, para. 3	The report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization should be available not later than 30 days prior to the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly in all official languages of the Organization so as to permit due consideration.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat. During the sixty-second session the report was not available within the deadline requested.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
80.	51/241, annex, para. 7	The report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization shall be considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly immediately after the general debate.	Secretary-General/Member States (General Assembly)	Provision implemented by the Secretariat on an ongoing basis. The report is considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly immediately after the general debate.
81.	51/241, annex, para. 10	The Secretary-General is requested to introduce the report orally at an appropriate time under the agenda item entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization".	Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General introduces his report orally under the agenda item entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization".
J.	**Provisions related to the agenda of the General Assembly**			
82.	66/294, para. 18 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 14; 64/301, para. 18; and 63/309, para. 6	Requests that the General Assembly and its Main Committees, at the sixty-seventh session, in consultation with Member States, continue consideration of and make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the Assembly, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group, including through the introduction of a sunset clause, with the clear consent of the sponsoring State or States.	Member States (General Assembly)/Main Committees	Ongoing provision. Over the course of recent sessions, some Main Committees have indicated that they do not see the possibility for further clustering or elimination of items at this stage. Others have developed the practice of holding joint debates on items that have sub-items.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
83.	58/316, annex, para. 2 (a) and (d)	(a) Pursuant to paragraph 4 of section B of the annex to resolution 58/126, the agenda of the General Assembly shall be organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization, as contained in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (or in the strategic framework, as appropriate), with an additional heading for "Organizational, administrative and other matters"; (d) The provisions of the present section shall be reviewed by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session with a view to making further improvements, as appropriate.	Secretary-General/Member States (General Assembly)	One-time action. As from the fifty-ninth session, the agenda of the General Assembly has been organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization, as contained in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and, subsequently, in accordance with the strategic framework for the period 2006-2007, with an additional heading I, entitled "Organizational, administrative and other matters" (A/61/483, p. 13, and A/62/608). During the sixty-first session no revision was made by the General Assembly.
84.	58/316, annex, para. 4	Provisions related to allocation of agenda items (for details see resolution 58/316, para. 4).	Member States/Secretary-General	One-time action. The provisions of this paragraph have been implemented as from the fifty-ninth session and reflected in the agenda of each session (A/62/608, and resolution 58/316, para. 4).
85.	55/285, annex, paras. 3-9	Provisions related to clustering of agenda items concerning cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations.	Member States/Secretary-General	One-time action. Provision implemented as requested and reflected in the agenda of each session.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
86.	55/285, annex, paras. 10 and 11	Provisions related to biennialization of agenda items (for details see resolution 55/285, paras. 10 and 11).	Member States/Secretary-General	One-time action. The provisions have been implemented as requested.
87.	55/285, annex, para. 12	The following item shall be considered by the Third Committee, starting at the fifty-sixth session: "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly".	Member States/Secretary-General	One-time action. The provisions have been implemented as requested.
88.	58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 4	With a view to better conceptualization of the content of the agenda of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General is requested to submit to the Assembly, for its consideration by 1 March 2004, an illustrative agenda of the Assembly, based on all the agenda items of the fifty-eighth session, organized around the priorities of the Organization for the period 2002-2005. The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the illustrative agenda before making recommendations on the matter to the Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.	Secretary-General/General Committee	One-time action. In response to this request, the Secretariat circulated a note entitled "Illustrative agenda of the General Assembly" (A/58/CRP.4), which the Assembly considered at its fifty-eighth session (A/61/483, p. 12). See also comments for provision 44 above.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
89.	58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 5	The President of the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, in consultation with the Secretary-General, and following consultations with concerned Member States, is requested to make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items of the customary agenda of the Assembly for the consideration of the General Committee by 1 April 2004. The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the proposals before making recommendations on the matter to the Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.	President of the General Assembly	One-time action. Subsequent to the adoption of resolution 58/126, the Secretariat circulated a note entitled "Analysis of the agenda of the General Assembly" which was considered by the General Committee in open-ended informal consultations.
90.	55/285, annex, para. 2 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 24	The rationalization and streamlining of the agenda of the General Assembly should continue in order to enable the Assembly to focus its work on priority issues. Any change or suggestion concerning the agenda is made with the understanding that Member States may at any time propose any issue or item for the	Member States (General Assembly)	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
		attention and consideration of the Assembly.		
91.	51/241, annex, para. 23	Bearing in mind rule 81 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the requirements for reopening debate on an agenda item which the Assembly had decided was completed will continue to be as at present and should be made clear to delegations through a statement from the President of the Assembly. A delegation wishing to reopen debate on an agenda item should send a written request to the President of the Assembly. The President will then undertake soundings to ascertain whether the request enjoys wide support. In the light of these soundings, the President shall announce in the *Journal of the United Nations* the date of the meeting of the Assembly to consider the question of reopening debate on the item, bearing in mind the requirements of rule 81.	Member States (General Assembly)/ President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. See also: rule 81.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
92.	51/241, annex, para. 25	As a general rule, agenda items that could be considered in the Main Committees shall be referred to the Main Committees rather than the General Assembly in plenary meetings.	General Assembly/ Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
K. Provisions related to practices and working methods of the Main Committees of the General Assembly (See also part I)				
93.	66/294, para. 19 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 15	Each Main Committee is encouraged to further discuss its working methods at the sixty-seventh session, and the Chairs of the Main Committees at the sixty-seventh session are invited to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group, as appropriate, on the discussions on the working methods.	Main Committees, Main Committee Chairs	Implemented on an ongoing basis. Briefings were provided to the Ad Hoc Working Group by Main Committee Chairs in the sixty-fifth, sixty-sixth and sixty-seventh sessions.
94.	60/286, annex, para. 25 *Also in*: 59/313, para. 8	Requests the Main Committees to continue their efforts to further rationalize their agendas and to improve their working methods, and invites the bureaux of the Main Committees to enhance their cooperation, in conformity with the rules of procedure.	Main Committees	In response to the request, some of the Main Committees explored ways and possibilities of enhancing their cooperation. For instance, during the sixtieth and sixty-first sessions there have been joint meetings of the bureaux of the Second and Third Committees.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
95.	59/313, annex, para. 9	Requests the Chairpersons of the Main Committees, at the end of their terms of office, to provide a short report on their observations and "lessons learned" to their immediate successors.	Main Committees	Provision is implemented by Main Committees on an ongoing basis. The observations and "lessons learned" are presented during the informal meetings between incoming and outgoing bureaux of the respective committees.
96.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (a) *Also in*: 59/313, para. 7; and 51/241, annex, para. 26	Main Committees shall give specific attention to the rationalization of their future agendas by the biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items, and make recommendations to the plenary Assembly for its decision by 1 April 2005.	Main Committees	In response to this request, the Main Committees at the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions made recommendations to the Assembly.
97.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (b) *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 30	Main Committees shall adopt a provisional programme of work at the end of the session for the next session to help them better to plan, prepare and organize and, in this context, review the related documentation requirements.	Main Committees	Implemented as from the fifty-ninth session (information on the programme of work of the Fifth Committee is usually not available owing to the time frame of the Committee's work) (A/61/483, p. 14, and A/62/608).
98.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (c)	The practice of interactive debates and panel discussions shall be utilized or expanded, as appropriate, by all Main Committees so as to enhance informal, in-depth	Main Committees	Provision is being implemented on an ongoing basis. The Committees make extensive use of interactive debates and panels; for example, panel meetings are of particular importance for the work of the Second Committee.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
		discussions and to bring together experts from various fields without prejudicing the progress of the substantive work of the Main Committees.		
99.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (d) *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 53	The practice of "question time" shall be introduced, as appropriate, in all Main Committees to enable a dynamic and candid exchange with heads of departments and offices, representatives of the Secretary-General and special rapporteurs.	Main Committees	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. As from the fifty-ninth session, Main Committees introduced the "question time", which has a significant importance for their work.
100.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (e)	The websites of the Main Committees shall be enhanced and thereafter regularly updated and their content maintained by the secretariats of the Main Committees.	Main Committees	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The websites of the Main Committees continue to be enhanced and regularly updated by the respective secretariats (A/61/483, p. 15, and A/62/608).
101.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (f)	The bureaux-elect of the Main Committees shall meet immediately after their election in order to discuss the organization and division of their work.	Main Committees	Ongoing provision. Provision implemented as from the fifty-eighth session.
102.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (g)	With a view to ensuring the continuity and the effective organization of their work, the incoming bureaux of the Main Committees shall, no later than two weeks after their	Main Committees	Implemented by most of the Main Committees as from the fifty-eighth session.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
		election, meet with the outgoing bureaux in order to consult on and review issues relating to the efficient functioning of the Main Committees.		
103.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (h) *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 30	Prior to the opening of each session, informal briefings of each Main Committee shall be convened to discuss the organization of work.	Main Committees	Implemented as from the fifty-ninth session.
104.	58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 8	The Main Committees of the General Assembly are bound by the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, although they have different practices and working methods. With a view to identifying best practices and working methods, and recognizing the ongoing efforts of the Main Committees to streamline their work, the Secretary-General, drawing on the experience of previous Chairmen of the Main Committees, is requested to submit a historical and analytical note on the practices and working methods of the Main Committees for the consideration of the General Committee by 1 April 2004. The	Secretary-General	In response to this request, the Secretariat circulated a note entitled "Historical and analytical note on the practices and working methods of the Main Committees" (A/58/CRP.5), which was considered by the General Committee in open-ended informal consultations (A/61/483, p. 13, and A/62/608).

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the note before making recommendations on the matter to the Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.		
105.	51/241, annex, para. 51	There shall be a more detailed and structured examination in the Main Committees of the relevant reports of the Board of Auditors, the Joint Inspection Unit and the Office of Internal Oversight Services in relation to the substantive work of these Committees.	Main Committees	The reports are examined in the Main Committees on an ad hoc basis, if necessary.
106.	51/241, annex, para. 31	The Main Committees shall meet in substantive session only after the end of the general debate.	Main Committees	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
107.	51/241, annex, para. 36	The First Committee and the Fourth Committee shall not meet simultaneously and may consider meeting in a sequential manner during the regular session of the General Assembly. This arrangement shall not apply if it affects their respective identities, programmes of work and effective consideration of their agendas.	Main Committees	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The secretaries of the First and Fourth Committees undertake consultation for the purpose of avoiding simultaneous meetings.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
L. Provisions related to the General Committee (See also part I)				
108.	60/286, annex, para. 27 *Also in*: 58/316, annex, para. 5 (b)	Reiterates its call for the effective implementation of rule 42 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.	General Committee	Since the adoption of resolution 58/316, the General Committee has met throughout the session of the General Assembly.
109.	51/241, annex, para. 33	The General Committee shall use its authority and competence, taking into account rule 43 of the rules of procedure, by allowing Member States that are not represented on the General Committee to participate in its discussions. The process of decision-making will continue to be as at present.	General Committee	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
110.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (a)	The work of the General Committee shall be carried out in accordance with section VI of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.	General Committee	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
111.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (b)	The General Committee shall continue to meet throughout the session and to play the leading role in advising the General Assembly on the efficient organization, coordination and management of its work.	General Committee	Since the adoption of resolution 58/316, the General Committee has met throughout the session of the General Assembly and played its leading role in advising the Assembly in the organization of its work.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
112.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (c)	To ensure the effective implementation of rule 42 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the General Committee shall meet regularly throughout the session with the bureaux of the Main Committees to review the progress of the work of the Main Committees and to make recommendations for furthering such progress.	General Committee	Since the adoption of the provision, the General Committee has met throughout the sessions of the General Assembly to ensure the effective implementation of rule 42 of the rules of procedure. Main Committee Chairs regularly briefed the General Committee on the work of their Committees.
113.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (d)	In July of each year, the General Committee shall conduct a review of the proposed programme of work for the forthcoming session of the General Assembly, on the basis of a report to be submitted by the Secretary-General, and submit recommendations on the matter to the forthcoming Assembly. The report of the Secretary-General shall include information on the status of documentation to be issued during the forthcoming session.	General Committee	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. In response to this request, the Secretary-General annually submits reports to the General Assembly, including the requested information on the status of documentation (the most recent of which is A/66/861 and Add.1).
114.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (f)	On the basis of proposals from the President of the General Assembly, and in the light of the positive experience during the fifty-eighth session, the General Committee shall be	General Committee	At the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions, the General Committee held a number of informal briefings on topical issues. Owing to the rising number of thematic debates, the practice of informal briefings in the General Committee has been limited to avoid duplication.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		encouraged, as appropriate, to continue to schedule informal briefings on topical issues.		
115.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (h)	The General Committee shall continue to consider ways and means to further improve its working methods to increase its efficiency and effectiveness in all aspects, and make recommendations on the matter to the General Assembly for its decision by 1 April 2005.	General Committee	The General Committee continues to consider ways and means of improving its working methods. No recommendation has been made in that regard since the adoption of this provision.
116.	58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 1	The General Committee shall meet throughout the session and further improve its working methods to increase its efficiency and effectiveness. It will play the leading role in advising the General Assembly on the efficient organization, coordination and management of its work. In this connection, the Assembly will also consider proposals to reform the General Committee.	General Committee	The General Assembly, at its fifty-eighth session, adopted resolution 58/316, by which, inter alia, it decided on a number of measures with regard to the reform of the General Committee.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
117.	55/285, annex, para. 20	In order to enhance the capacity of the General Committee to assist the President of the General Assembly in the conduct of the business of the Assembly and to improve continuity between its different sessions, at the outset of each session, each Vice-President of the Assembly shall designate a liaison person for the duration of the session. This designation may be made informally, without any amendment to rule 39 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, by means of a letter to its President.	General Committee	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
118.	51/241, annex, para. 34	The General Committee may, each year, prior to the closure of the session, prepare suggestions based on its experience for the consideration of the incoming General Committee.	General Committee	Suggestions have been made on an ongoing basis during informal meetings between the incoming and outgoing General Committees.
119.	51/241, annex, para. 35	The General Committee is requested to consider and recommend to the General Assembly methods and procedures for streamlining and rationalizing the Committee's work. The General Committee shall, in this context, in relation to each agenda item	General Committee	Provisions to be implemented by the General Committee.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
		proposed, consider its rejection or its inclusion in the provisional agenda, taking into account previous recommendations of the General Committee and previous relevant decisions of the Assembly.		

Cluster III: selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
A. General provision related to the selection of the Secretary-General (See part I)				
B. Provisions related to the selection process (See also part I)				
120.	66/294, para. 25 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 20; and 64/301, para. 14	Reaffirms its commitment to continue, in the Ad Hoc Working Group, in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter, its consideration of the revitalization of the role of the General Assembly in the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, and calls for the full implementation of all relevant resolutions, including resolutions 11 (I) of 24 January 1946, 51/241, 60/286, in particular paragraphs 17 to 22 of the annex thereto, and 64/301.	Member States (General Assembly)	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The Ad Hoc Working Group has devoted a thematic meeting in each of its recent sessions to this issue.
121.	66/294, para. 26 *Also in*: 60/286, annex, para. 18; and 51/241, annex, paras. 56 and 59	Emphasizes, bearing in mind the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter, the need for the process of selection of the Secretary-General to be inclusive of all Member States and made more transparent and that, in the course of the identification and appointment of the best candidate for the post of Secretary-General, due regard should be given to regional rotation and gender equality, and invites the Security Council to regularly update the General Assembly on the steps it has taken in this regard.	Member States (General Assembly/ Security Council)	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
C. Provisions related to the appointment and duration of the term (See also part I)				
122.	60/286, annex, para. 21 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 61	Recalls paragraph 61 of its resolution 51/241, in which it is stated that, in order to ensure a smooth and efficient transition, the Secretary-General should be appointed as early as possible, preferably no later than one month before the date on which the term of the incumbent expires.	General Assembly, Security Council	The provision is being implemented to the extent possible.

Cluster IV: strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
A. Provisions related to the competencies of the President of the General Assembly				
123.	66/294, para. 29 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 24; 64/301, para. 13; and 63/309, para. 4	Welcomes the periodic briefings by the President of the General Assembly to Member States on his recent activities, including official travels, and encourages the continuation of such practice.	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
124.	66/294, para. 36 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 28; 64/301, para. 17; and 60/286, annex, para. 9;	Requests outgoing Presidents of the Assembly to brief their successors on lessons learned and best practices.	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
125.	58/126, annex, para. 7	In June of each year, the President-elect of the General Assembly, after taking into account the views provided by Member States and following consultations with the incumbent President and the Secretary-General, will suggest an issue, or issues, of global concern upon which Member States will be invited to comment during the general debate at the forthcoming session of the Assembly. The views provided by Member States should also be summarized and circulated to Member States. Such suggestions regarding the issue(s) for comment will be without prejudice to the sovereign right of Member States to solely and entirely determine the content of their general debate statements.	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
B. Provisions related to the financial, logistic and technical support for the President of the General Assembly (See also part I)				
126.	66/294, para. 33 *Also in*: 64/301, para. 12	Underlines the importance of the contributions of Member States to the Trust Fund in support of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, notes in this regard that no contributions were made to the Fund during the sixty-sixth session of the Assembly, and invites Member States to consider contributing to the Fund.	Member States	Since the adoption of resolution 66/294 a number of contributions have been made to the Trust Fund in support of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
127.	66/294, para. 34 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 26	Requests the Secretary-General, at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, to report on the funding and staffing of the Office of the President of the Assembly, including on any technical, logistical, protocol-related or financial questions	Secretary-General	Pursuant to this provision, there will be an oral briefing to the Ad Hoc Working Group during the sixty-seventh session. A briefing on the same subject was provided to the Ad Hoc Working Group at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.
128.	66/294, para. 35 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 27; and 64/301, para. 11	Requests the Secretary-General to further endeavour to ensure, within agreed resources, that the President of the General Assembly is provided with proper protocol and security services and adequate office space, with a view to enabling the President of the Assembly to carry out his or her functions in a manner commensurate with the dignity and stature of the Office.	Secretary-General	The Department of Safety and Security continues to provide close protection coverage for the President of the General Assembly from within existing resources, and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management continues to provide protocol services to the Office of the President of the General Assembly. In addition, new office space will be made available to the Office in the renovated Secretariat building.
129.	66/294, para. 36 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 28; and 63/309, para. 5	Emphasizes the need to ensure, within agreed resources, that the Office of the President of the General Assembly is allocated dedicated staff within the Secretariat with responsibility for coordinating the transition between Presidents, managing interactions between the President of the Assembly and the Secretary-General and the retention of institutional memory, and requests the outgoing Presidents of the	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management provides technical, procedural and substantive support to the Office of the President of the General Assembly throughout the year and also briefs Presidents-elect and their teams on the work of the forthcoming session.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
		Assembly to brief their successors on the lessons learned and best practices.		The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management is also the focal point for the institutional memory of the work and practices of the General Assembly.
130.	59/313, para. 3 (b)	Decides to strengthen the role and leadership of the President of the General Assembly by: (b) Augmenting the resources available to the Office of the President of the General Assembly from within existing resources, subject to consideration by the Assembly of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, to provide for two further additional posts at management and senior levels to be filled on an annual basis following consultations with the incoming President, beginning at the sixtieth session of the Assembly.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented as from the sixtieth session (A/61/483, p. 18).
131.	58/126, annex, para. 10	The resources available to the Office of the President of the General Assembly in personnel and other support shall be augmented from within existing resources, bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 22 of the annex to resolution 55/285. Five additional posts shall be made available to supplement current support, of which three shall be filled on an annual basis, following consultations with the incoming President, beginning at the fifty-ninth session of the Assembly.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented as from the fifty-ninth session (A/61/483, p. 11, and A/62/608).
132.	55/285, annex, para. 22 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 44	Additional measures are required to implement paragraph 44 of the annex to resolution 51/241, in particular in the area of substantive support for the President of the General Assembly. Therefore,	Secretary-General	This provision has been superseded by subsequent resolutions, including 58/126 and 59/313. The Ad Hoc Working Group has in recent sessions also received briefings on the range of

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
		adequate support should be made available to the office of the President in the substantive areas of its work. To this end, the Secretary-General is requested to take appropriate measures and to submit proposals to the relevant committees for their consideration during the fifty-sixth session of the Assembly.		support being provided to the President of the General Assembly and the Office of the President of the General Assembly. See also provisions 17, 31, 33 and 128 above.
133.	59/313, para. 3 (c)	Decides to strengthen the role and leadership of the President of the General Assembly by: (c) Making available to the President of the General Assembly adequate office and conference space with a view to enabling the President to carry out his/her functions in a manner commensurate with the dignity and stature of the Office.	Secretary-General	Beginning with the fifty-ninth session, transitional office space and other support have been provided to the President-elect.
134.	60/286, annex, para. 11 *Also in*: 58/126, annex, para. 11	Requests the Secretary-General to continue to make the necessary arrangements for the provision of transitional office accommodation and other support to the President-elect of the General Assembly, in accordance with resolution 58/126.	Secretary-General	Beginning with the fifty-ninth session, transitional office space and other support have been provided to the President-elect (A/61/483, p. 11, and A/62/608, p. 6).
135.	59/313, para. 3 (d)	Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the President of the General Assembly is provided with proper protocol services at Headquarters and at other United Nations duty stations.	Secretary-General	Support by the Protocol Office to the Office of the President of the General Assembly has been further strengthened through closer coordination with the Office of the President where protocol services are necessary, including also the social events hosted by the President (A/61/483, p. 18, and A/62/608).
136.	60/286, annex, para. 9	Requests the President of the General Assembly, at the end of his/her tenure, to provide an informal, short report on best practices and lessons leanred to his/her successor.	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis in the form of informal meetings.

Annex II

Non-paper: enhancing the coordination of the scheduling of high-level meetings at the United Nations

1. In his opening remarks to the meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly on 2 April 2013, the Chair suggested exploring the possibility of having one week during the months of March, April or May dedicated to high-level meetings, instead of concentrating those debates during the week of the high-level segment of the General Assembly in September, noting that this would address both the burden of the compressed schedule in September and the need to spread those meetings across the session, where the problem of the level of participation may arise. Several delegations asked for further information on this proposal. The present non-paper has been prepared in accordance with this request.

2. There are three types of high-level meetings during the high-level segment in September and/or across the session of the General Assembly:

(a) High-level meetings of the General Assembly convened according to Assembly resolutions;[1]

(b) High-level thematic debates convened by the President of the General Assembly;[2]

(c) High-level meetings convened upon the initiative of the Secretary-General.[3]

3. In its resolution 66/294, paragraph 20, the General Assembly noted with appreciation that the high-level meetings held at the United Nations give more visibility to very important topics, while mindful of the need to facilitate full participation of all Member States and to preserve the integrity of the general debate in September, and reiterated its invitation to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Chairs of the Main Committees, in consultation with Member States, "to enhance the coordination of the scheduling of high-level meetings with a view to optimizing the number and distribution of such events".[4]

4. The practice of holding thematic debates goes back to resolution 59/313, in which the Assembly decided to convene and organize major thematic debates in order to establish broad international understanding on current substantive issues of importance to Member States, and authorized the President of the General Assembly to propose interactive debates on current issues on the agenda of the Assembly, in consultation with Member States. The practice of holding thematic debates has

[1] Examples of recent high-level meetings of the General Assembly include: high-level meeting on the rule of law at the national and international levels, held on 24 September 2012; high-level meeting to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, held on 22 September 2011.

[2] Example of a recent high-level thematic debate convened by the President of the General Assembly: high-level thematic debate on the peaceful resolution of conflicts in Africa, held on 25 April 2013.

[3] Example of a recent high-level meeting convened upon the initiative of the Secretary-General: high-level meeting on countering nuclear terrorism, held on 28 September 2012.

[4] See also resolution 65/315, para. 16.

evolved over time, as reflected in subsequent resolutions on the revitalization of the Assembly. Most recently, paragraph 7 of resolution 66/294 invited the President of the General Assembly to "continue this practice and to consult with Member States on the possibilities for achieving, where appropriate, results-oriented outcomes in such debates".

5. With a view to enhancing the coordination of the scheduling of high-level meetings at the United Nations, the Ad Hoc Working Group may wish to consider exploring further the option of encouraging the General Assembly to schedule future high-level meetings during the early part of the year (in the upcoming resolution on revitalization), taking into account the calendar of conferences, and without prejudice to the current practices of convening high-level meetings in September at the beginning of each Assembly session, and convening high-level thematic debates throughout the session, as appropriate.

Annex III

Background note: rotation pattern for the election of the Chairs of the six Main Committees

1. The rules of procedure of the General Assembly provide for the election by the Assembly of a President, 21 Vice-Presidents, and Chairs of the six Main Committees for each session of the Assembly, who together constitute the General Committee. In accordance with the rules of procedure, these shall be elected at least three months before the opening of the session over which they are to preside. Subsequent resolutions by the Assembly on the revitalization of its work have underlined the importance of the early election of these officials in order to facilitate planning, preparation and the exchange of lessons learned from one session to the next.

2. The membership of the United Nations is organized into informal regional groups. While their respective levels of coordination and organization differ from one group to another, the regional groups play an important role for electoral purposes in the General Assembly, where they generally form the basis for the distribution of seats. There are currently five regional groups in the United Nations: African States; Asia-Pacific States; Eastern European States; Latin American and Caribbean States; Western European and other States.

3. Given that there are five regional groups and six (formerly seven) Main Committees, the question has arisen, in the past, as to the rotation of the sixth chairmanship every session, and the General Assembly has provided clarity on this issue by adopting resolutions spelling out a specific rotational pattern for the election of the Main Committee Chairs. The latest such guidance can be found in annex II of resolution 48/264, in which the Assembly stipulated that, as of the forty-ninth session, the Main Committee Chairs shall be elected from among one representative from each regional group, and that the sixth chairmanship shall rotate over a period of 20 sessions, according to a rotational pattern, from among the African, Asian and Latin American and Caribbean States. In the same resolution, the Assembly also decided to replace paragraph 4 of the annex to resolution 33/138 with the text contained in its annex II, which is also reflected in a footnote to rule 30 of the rules of procedure. The rotational pattern currently in place will, therefore, expire with the sixty-eighth session.

4. While the pattern outlined in resolution 48/264 continues to apply in the elections of the Main Committee Chairs for the sixty-eighth session, the question has arisen concerning the replacement or continuation of the pattern in the elections for the sixty-ninth and future sessions. In accordance with the rules of procedure and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the revitalization of its work, the elections for the Main Committee Chairs of the sixty-ninth session should be held not later than 16 June 2014 (at least three months before the opening of the sixty-ninth session), that is, in the course of the resumed part of the sixty-eighth session. In other words, this issue would have to be addressed either in the Ad Hoc Working Group during the sixty-seventh session or, if not during the current session, at an early stage during the sixty-eighth session.

5. During the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group at the sixty-seventh session, held on 2 April 2013, a group of Member States pointed out the necessity to

streamline the current arrangements for formation of the bureaux of the Main Committees to make the rotation scheme more transparent and predictable, adding that it would welcome further discussions and practical proposals on this matter.

6. In the light of the above, the Ad Hoc Working Group could discuss this issue and explore the possibility of reaching a decision during the current session.